

Bavarian News

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U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt

June 13, 2007

Congratulations Graduates!



Vilseck High School's Class of 2007 makes last-minute adjustments before their graduation ceremony at Amberg's Congress Centrum June 9.



Class of 2007



Photos by Adriane Foss

(Left) Rebecca Linka hugs a classmate after the official presentation of the 2007 Class. (Above) The seniors' former principal paid a surprise visit via a pre-recorded message from Seoul, South Korea.

Staff report

Hundreds of family members and friends attended Vilseck High School's 2007 commencement ceremony June 9 at the Congress Centrum in Amberg.

Sixty students made up this year's graduating class.

The VHS Color Guard kicked off the 4 p.m. ceremony with the presentation of the colors, followed by the high school band's presentation

of the German national anthem, and the American national anthem by a VHS choir ensemble.

Graduating senior Catherine DelaRosa welcomed guests before introducing a video message from the class' former principal Robert Sennett, who PCS'ed to Seoul (American High School), Korea, earlier this year.

Co-salutatorians Courtney Baer and Daniel Waters and Valedictorian Corbin Skerit spoke before VHS teacher and coach Richard Ritter gave a humorous commencement speech.

Mold repairs underway *Kaltenbrunn homeowners subcontract work to local construction companies*

by ADRIANE FOSS
Editor

After an April 25 U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr town hall meeting in which military families complained of mold in their leased homes, repairs are underway.

A follow-up June 6 meeting between Grafenwoehr's Directorate of Public Works, Housing Division, and Installation Management Command-Europe officials has resulted in a plan that will complete the repairs in affected units at the Kaltenbrunn housing area.

Grafenwoehr's Public Works Chief Tom Hays explained that repairs have already begun, and that the first few units undergoing repairs would be test cases before they complete work on the remaining units.

"What we want to do is, first, test to be sure that the contractor does work in a professional manner, second, that occupants are properly protected (during the process), and, third, that the occupants are satisfied with the work that was done."

Although the repair process will

begin with a brief testing phase, Hays offered reassurance that the renovations will meet rigorous standards required by the Army.

"The (home) owners hired a consultant who is experienced in mold remediation, and they've hired a firm that has very, very high qualifications," said Hays.

T B G Umwelt is the administrative company, or homeowners association, for the Kaltenbrunn units and has been in close contact with Army and state officials since the mold issue came to light through community concerns raised in a town hall meeting. The repair work will be subcontracted to several local construction companies under the close scrutiny of TBG Umwelt.

As for the length of time it has taken to resolve the mold issue, Hays

explained that it was due to the extensive coordination process and the garrison's insistence in ensuring a sound process.

"We've been working very hard to try and do it right and not include further complications to occupants. The health, safety, and welfare of our

"We've been working very hard to try and do it right and not include further complications..."

Tom Hays
DPW Chief

Coordination included everything from bringing in health officials to identify the mold to investigating the cause of the mold and moisture issues to develop an action plan that can be assured to fully resolve the mold problems discovered.

Hays said several causes for the mold and moisture were identified and

Soldiers and families are our top priority. Quite a bit of coordination work had to be done following that meeting even through today," said Hays.

Casey talks transformation during Grafenwoehr visit

USAREUR press release

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Army chief of staff, called the U.S. Army in Europe's mission "an important part of our overall Army effort" during a stop at Grafenwoehr June 1, part of a theater-wide visit to talk to troops about the "way ahead" for the Army.

During a three-day sweep of U.S. Army, Europe, Gen. Casey,

accompanied by his wife, Sheila, visited Heidelberg, Baumholder, Kaiserslautern, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Schweinfurt, Kosovo and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

During a press conference in Grafenwoehr, Gen. Casey outlined his initiatives, which he said are designed to sharpen the focus on transformation efforts:

See **ARMY** Page 23



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sun Vega

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., answers questions during a 7th Army JMTTC press conference at Grafenwoehr.

Q&A

What is one important thing you've *learned* since coming to Germany?



Jesse Maier
"You've got to stick together and help each other out."

Anthony Jannotti
"Esso gas stations. Make sure you have your gas cards before you go on vacation. I learned that one the hard way."



Nathan Greer
"Learn how to communicate with your host nation community."

Sherry Quinteros
"You have to be more independent when shopping. Going to a German super-market is a challenge, and you have to bag your own stuff."



Jennifer Tuft
"Learning the customs, like proper etiquette when eating in a restaurant. And learning how Germans respect others."

Sara White
"I've learned that it's easier than I thought to bring a bag to the store or carry a basket, because otherwise you end up paying for one all the time."



Will Anderson Jr.
"To be flexible and be able to change with the times. Military life has taught me that every place we go is going to be different."

Stephen Gowin
"You'll get a lot further if you try the language than if you don't. The Germans will help you out."



Command Message

Busses now available for CYS

With the recent alternating rain and sunshine, the post is getting greener and I appreciate all of you who have stepped up to the plate and are mowing your yards.

For those of you who haven't, please join the rest of us in keeping our post neat and tidy.

In addition, grass cutting, and for that matter snow shoveling, makes a great youth job and I encourage kids to get out and offer their services to the neighbors.

Just remember Bavarian rules and don't do large noise-producing jobs (mowing, edging, trimming etc.) on Sundays.

Heeleys

While I am sure I am dating myself, I can remember my grade school years when some of my friends had a toy called the Clacker.

The Clacker was two large marbles, connected with a rope and the idea was to get the marbles banging together at high speed – thus making the "clacker" sound.

These lasted for a short time until they were pulled from the shelf because the marbles broke and children suffered eye injuries. Welcome to 2007 and the Heeleys.

Heeleys are a brand name of a tennis shoe that have a wheel in the heel of the shoe and allows (mostly) children to race/coast on the wheel through schools, parks, and down hills.

Many people consider them a nuisance and they have been banned in many malls and schools in the United States.



Worse, they can be dangerous. Doctors have reported an increase in the number of injuries directly attributed to these shoes and they include broken arms, hands, legs, and even two skull-fractures—one that led to the death of a child.

Soon the American Pediatric Association will issue guidance recommending users of these shoes wear helmets and knee, ankle, and wrist protectors. The general consensus is much like trampolines—Heeley's are unsafe and children should use them only with the proper protective gear.

We have elected to not change our helmet riding policy yet. However we will track injuries that stem from this product and will change the policy if warranted.

Parents and sponsors, consider this information and monitor the use of these shoes so we can avoid an unneeded tragedy.

Bus support to CYS Sports

About 18 months ago we attempted to provide bus support to CYS Sports in order to limit travel cost to parents. We were unable to do so because we lacked busses.

Recently our resources have improved somewhat. Therefore coaches are now allowed to request bus support to move teams to external areas (beyond the Graf-Vilseck area) by filling out a transportation request with DOL.

DOL will review the request and ensure it is filled out correctly and meets all requirements to include qualified driver. This will continue to be honored in a first-come, first-served basis.

Along these same lines, the Grafenwoehr CYS worker in Bldg. 242 recently quit. Until we can hire another worker, this position will be

manned on a limited basis during the week using other resources. Thanks for your understanding as we work through the hiring process.

Parking by the bank and commissary
Recently we took back about eight parking spaces in the vicinity of the bank and credit union at Grafenwoehr.

About two years ago we opened those spots up because of a lack of parking in that area.

Throughout that time we have had several small collisions between cars backing up and traffic through that area.

We also have had several near-misses, particularly with large 18-wheel vehicles. With the new temporary middle school open there is plenty of parking in that school area and it is less than a 50-meter walk to all these services.

I suggest that personnel moving through that area travel past the commissary and the elementary school and park in the middle school parking lot and walk to the bank or credit union and post office.

We have had only one suggestion on who should be able to park in the commanders special permit parking slots.

We will review this program again over the coming weeks and either implement the permit parking or remove the signs entirely.

And to all of you: thanks for again making this the best place to live and work in Germany.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Complaining helps solve problems



JACEY ECKHART
On the Homefront

I got an e-mail about a Seabee over in Afghanistan, whose wife and two children, his mother, and his sister all lost their houses to the tornado in Greensburg, Kan.

But the Seabee wasn't going home. According to the e-mail from his commanding officer, the guy said that he is a Seabee, and his wife Karla is a Seabee's wife, and she will be OK doing it all on her own.

I raised an eyebrow at that one. But I gave myself a new forehead crease when I read the response of the CO.

"Got to love those Seabees and got to love those Navy wives.....if any of you ladies are having a bad day think of Karla picking through the rubble of her home in Kansas with a husband in Afghanistan..."

Woo boy. This wasn't a nice story of a military family handling a tragedy. This was an admonition to military spouses (and everyone else) to quit complaining.

Don't bother anyone with your moaning about how the deployment was extended for the third time. Don't kvetch about how your dental care claim was denied. Even if a tornado has ripped through your entire town, you've got nothing to complain about, Princess.

Ummm, what's wrong with complaining? In the past, we used to say that the only happy military spouse was a complaining military spouse. It's what we do.

It may not be fun to listen to, but I swear that complaining usually works. I complain. I complain. I complain. Then I get sick of complaining, and I figure out what to do next. But I can't figure out the solution until I complain a certain number of times.

This must drive the rest of the world crazy because now Christ Church Unity in Kansas City has started a movement to rid the world of

complainers. Since last July they have distributed more than 4 million purple bracelets encouraging people to stop complaining.

They claim that if you quit for 21 consecutive days, then your complaints will have nowhere to go and you will stop thinking them up.

I'm sure that commanding officer will be ordering a boatload of those bracelets tomorrow. I won't — I don't see any virtue in a complaint-free world.

I don't see any virtue in complaining that the hotel bar doesn't carry your particular boutique brand of vodka, either. But complaining has its place.

It gets people the attention and sympathy they might actually need. It brings on solution finders.

Life coach Martha Beck gives some pointers on getting those solutions for yourself. She says you should frame your problem as a "how" question: How do I get my dental claim resolved? How do I find the energy to deal with three more months of deployment? How do I handle this tornado damage all by myself?

Me, I start my complaint-o-meter low. Low-level moaning and groaning can be ignored. It isn't my responsibility to make sure that the babysitter went to bed on time so she wouldn't be tired. It isn't my worry if someone is overly particular about where the spoons are kept. Let that stuff go on by.

When a certain number of complaints have been received, a solution is absolutely necessary. When my kids complained

endlessly about who got to sit in the front seat, I made them come up with an ironclad solution. The younger one gets the front on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The older one gets every other day. We haven't had a complaint since.

When anyone in our family has a slew of complaints, we write them all down on the nearest piece of paper. Creativity expert Julia Cameron calls this exercise "Blasting Through Blocks."

There is something about seeing your complaints in another person's handwriting that makes everything a little more manageable. It is easy to see which of your complaints are silly and which need to be dealt with immediately.

When all else fails, you can take it to Complaint Central. I'm surprised when a church doesn't recommend taking your complaints to the Big Guy. He doesn't seem to mind no matter how many complaints are delivered.

So let the rest of the world line up to put an end to their own complaining. Put on that purple bracelet and I will not complain to you at all nor allow complaints within a 50 mile radius of you.

But I'm resolved to be the catcher in the rye, here. I'm resolved to catch the complainers and send them back into the world feeling well heard and prepared to deal with the problem. Because that's what we need.

A 19-year military spouse, Jacey Eckhart is a syndicated columnist with CinHouse.com, a published author and the host of The Jacey Eckhart Show, www.cinhouse.com/Jacey.



**Cartoon by Darron Martinez
Grade 5, Age 11**

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DoDDS-E mourns passing of one of its own

by **ROGER TEEL**
Special to the Bavarian News

Department of Defense Dependent Schools in the Bavaria District dismissed classes early May 30 to allow educators, administrators, and friends to celebrate the life of one of their own.

Dr. Maryellen Riley, 46, assistant superintendent of the Bavaria District, died May 23 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center after a battle with cancer. About 500 friends and colleagues, some from as far away as England, attended the late afternoon service at an overflowing Leighton Chapel in Wuerzburg.

Loud speakers were placed in gazebos adjacent the chapel and in a basement meeting room where late



Riley

arrivals could listen to the service. The funeral mass was led by Father Gary Fukes and included scripture readings and music by several DoDDS educators and friends.

Bavaria District Superintendent Mike Thompson, a close personal friend and colleague of Riley, delivered the eulogy and personal reflections.

“We are here to celebrate the life of Maryellen Riley,” Thompson said. “We are here to recognize her work as a parent, as an educator, and as a volunteer.”

Thompson recited “The Dash” by Linda Ellis, which addresses the time between birth and death as noted by the dash between the dates on a tombstone. He then recounted many important things Riley had achieved.

“It was important to her that her children personally witness her love for her parents, and they made many trips to be with them,” he said.

Riley’s parents, Paul and Rosemary Georges, were in attendance.

“She was always a gracious and generous person, always there to help, and she was always there for her

family,” said Thompson. “As an educator, she loved children and showed them how to enjoy learning and doing the work. She treated all of them with understanding, compassion and fairness.

“Maryellen was a mentor, a cheerleader and a comforting influence to everyone she met. ‘Okie-dokie’ was something she said to everyone,” he said.

“She lived by the maxim, ‘If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all.’ And Maryellen was never quiet – showing that she found the good in people. As a role model, she always gave her best,” he said, noting Riley’s efforts to complete her doctorate, which she received Jan. 25, 2007.

“She was a parachutist, a scuba diver, and a runner,” Thompson continued. He said Riley set the record for one-mile run at her high school and won the 1995 Panama Marathon.

“She loved the outdoors. She knew right from wrong and always chose right. She was a woman of complexity, of common sense, of passion and

commitment. She was a woman of phenomenal spirit – spirit that fills all of us right now,” Thompson said as his voice cracked with emotion.

“Her ‘dash’ is surely filled with positives,” he said, “and we should now do what she would want us all to do, to open our eyes, smile, and go on.”

As the mass ended, tearful attendees hugged and supported each other in front of the chapel.

“She was one of us,” said Wuerzburg teacher Carol Lanigan. “We all loved her.”

Riley was born in 1961 in Lowell, Mass. She earned her undergraduate and master’s degree from Rivier College and completed her doctorate at Boston University.

She began her DoDDS career in 1987 at Fort Clayton Elementary School, Cristobal Junior-Senior High School, Panama Canal College, Balboa Elementary School, and Balboa High School, all in Panama.

She was assistant principal at Seoul High School, South Korea, from 1998-2001. She was principal of

Wuerzburg American High School in Germany from 2001-2004, and became assistant superintendent of DoDDS-Europe’s Bavaria District from 2004 until her death.

Riley is survived by her husband, Dan Riley, an educator at Wuerzburg American Middle School; their daughter, Katherine and son, Daniel; her parents, Paul and Rosemary Georges; her sister, Paula, and her husband, Mark Hamel and their children; her paternal grandparents and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The family requests that donations in Riley’s memory be made to:

Landstuhl Fisher House
CMR 402, Box 669
APO AE 09180

Spotlight on Education



Name:
Dolores McDowell-Schaffer

What grade/subject do you teach? Educational Technology for Grafenwoehr Middle School

Hometown: Nashville, Tenn.

How long have you been a teacher? 30 years

What do you like best about teaching?

Teaching is never boring and is quite rewarding. The reactions when students grow, succeed, and experience “I get it” moments are experiences that sustain me.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school? Mastering the basics of education during the elementary school years is absolutely essential. The jobs of tomorrow are not even created today. Students must be able to use reading, writing, math, and all basic knowledge to learn, unlearn, and learn new skills and information in our rapidly changing world. Education doesn’t end after high school; it begins.



GES student council president Mariel Colon presents Frau Bohm from the Weiden Tierheim with more than 1,000 pounds of donated pet supplies, which could last up to a year at the animal shelter.

GES student council reaches out to local animal shelter

Story and photo by **BILYANAATOVA**
Staff writer

“In this time of so many natural disasters, people are always eager to donate clothing and money to help those who have encountered tragedies,” said David Simm, a teacher and student council sponsor at Grafenwoehr Elementary School. “We felt that it would be a good idea to focus our community involvement this year on the abandoned animals who often are the forgotten ones.”

The GES student council held a pet food drive during the month of May and collected 1,146 pounds of pet food and items which they donated to the Weiden Tierheim (animal shelter) June 5.

“We wanted to do something not just for the school but for the community” Simm said, explaining how the student council brainstormed various possibilities and decided to focus on the Weiden animal shelter for their project. “It is a project easily understandable for the children. Everybody from kindergarten to fifth grade can relate to helping animals,” said Simm.

Simm said the student council

members did all of the work by themselves, advertising the drive, creating posters, and making collection boxes.

With the assistance of GES PTA, the council was able to offer an ice cream party to the class that donated the most items during the drive. The largest contributor was by David Dinges’ fourth grade class, who donated 320 pounds.

The council’s Mariel Colon and Emily Manzo said they did not expect such a large turnout in the beginning, but the announcement that the first place prize would be an ice cream party was a definite motivator.

“Kids were excited, I was impressed,” said Simm. “The sense of competition really helped.”

Two animal shelter employees came to the installation to accept the donation and invited the students for a tour of the Tierheim.

This GES student council has sponsored several other events, including the school Mardi Gras and the construction of 16 birdhouses.

“Our student council represents the entire school, although members elected to the council are from only grades two through five,” Simm said.



Photo by David Dinges

TROPICAL FUN

Grafenwoehr Elementary students in Pearl Clark’s second grade class created a life-size model of the rain forest. The students studied the characteristics of the rain forest and used their new knowledge to apply science skills and ensure accuracy.



Photo by Adriane Foss

German Polizei and USAG Grafenwoehr military police joined forces to teach garrison students bicycle safety last week. After teaching the children bicycle safety in the post theater parking lot the policemen took the students for rides around the installation to put their knowledge to practical first-hand use.



HEALTHY EMPOWERMENT

BY DEMETRIUS WILLIS

Dear Demetrius,
I am a Soldier already on profile for knee pain, but not I am beginning to experience pain in my back.

I used to be in great shape and I feel embarrassed just writing this letter so you can

imagine how I feel talking to my friends and family about this concern.

I am writing you to find out what kind of exercises I can do to improve this situation.

"Ouch! This does not feel good, sir"
Johnson

Dear Johnson,
You should not feel embarrassed.

Our bodies are extremely self efficient in many ways. Sometimes the discomfort and pain are just a way of our bodies telling us “hey it is time for a check-up from the doc!” and “it is time to make a few changes in our daily routine.”

Most back problems result from injured muscles, ligaments, or occasionally joints, not from disc injuries.

In addition, weak muscles in the abdominals, obliques, back, and buttock muscles can be strong contributors to back pain.

First let me say that it is essential that you see your doctor or therapist for a list of exercises specific to your diagnosis and profile restrictions.

When dealing with pain, it is important that you do not live your life in fear of physical activity. This may be your salvation from your pain.

When lifting, use less weight and more reps, engage your abdominals and good posture on every exercise, stay focused on the movements, and wear a weight lifting belt when needed.

Stay away from high risk exercises:

clean-and-jerk, dead-lift, snatch or squats. Utilize machines which take the stress off your knees and back. Perhaps most importantly, stay fit, avoid overeating, and watch your weight.

Finally, work on your flexibility and stretch, stretch, stretch!

Demetrius

Send your nutrition and fitness questions to usagnews@EUR.army.mil. Willis is a registered dietician and a certified personal trainer.



Hats off!

Twenty-nine graduation caps are flung into the air in the courtyard of Castle Seehof, Memmelsdorf, moments after the Bamberg American High School graduation ceremony Friday afternoon.

Photo by Amy Bugala

David Zumbach and the rest of the Class of 2007 recite the pledge of allegiance at the Ansbach High School Graduation Ceremony. Thirty-eight Ansbach seniors received their diplomas at the ceremony held at the city's Orangerie. The school also awarded a diploma to and tearfully read the dedication of Katherine Kimmel, a Cougar senior killed in an auto accident May 28.

Photo by Jim Hughes

A graduate in a purple gown and cap is holding a large bouquet of white and yellow flowers. He is standing in front of a stack of blue diplomas. Other graduates in purple gowns and caps are visible in the background.

Ansbach American High School

Katherine Therese Alegado
Charles Malilong Bagalawis
Salina Ann Boodoosingh
Kayla Kathlene Neumann
Brost (Valedictorian)
Gregory Chase
Danielle Cook (Salutatorian)
James Daniels
Winda Dianti
Kayla Ann Eidson
Janeen Gethers
Samantha C. Hakes
Joshua Mychal Hale
Kerron Roy Hutton
Mikel Andreas Kendle
Katherine Kimmel
Carolina Larmeu
Raffael Limbrunner
Paulette Jocelyn Lopez
Nicole Guadalupe Luna

Shantel E. Moore
Shannon Ann Olson
Stephanie Jeane Pike
Daniela Anita Pipok
Vianca Enid Quinones
Chelsea Sant
Adrion Tyler Shack
Ronald Lee Snow III
Dustin August Teall
Jazmine A. Thibodeaux
Chava Thompson
Shuzel Timothy
Liana Francia Tuliau
Monico Vilorio
Shawna Lynn Waters
Baraka Francis Waweru
Darrin Allen Williams Jr.
Jessica Nicole Willoughby
Jonieshea Wright
David Michael Zumbach

Bamberg American High School

Dillon Baker (Salutatorian)
Nicholas McGuinness
Nicholas McGuinness
Sherell Carter
Jennifer Clark
Neickco Cobbins
Andrew Duque
Charlene Edwards
Marvin Gholston
Christina Hopkins
Jasmine Hopkins
Rodney Hughes Jr.
Ashlee Kozel
Brett Lemley
Jennifer Luderer
David Maritz
Timaree McKinney
Bernard McPherson, II
Christina Mueller
Mary Osier

Wuerzburg American High School

Acacia D. Allen
Kent M. Barrios
Kirstin M. Brewster
Donald W. Bryant
Danielle Bushelle
Angel A. Castaneda
Jaime Chanler
Afton Cissell (Valedictorian)
Lindsey Cole
Brittney D. Dallen
Taylor D. Dallen
Daniel Davis
Mark A. Dixon
Camille S. Edwards
Nicholas D. Evans
Carlos E. Figueroa
Eric M. Flom
Chandler D. Griffith
Candice K. Hall
Bryant J. Harvey
Kristin A. Hickey
Ashley A. Jackson
Meghan Janda
Nils A. Jonsson (Salutatorian)
Kenyatta J. Joyner

Sean M. Kell
Alex J. King
Sunisa Kunsiri
Jamielle M. Lamson Buscho
Brittanie M. Langford
Jaileen E. Madera Torres
Danielle McKay
Gregory Pico
Mirjam N. Pinschmidt
Jenna M. Reilly
Katherine L. Riley
Daniel A. Ross
Diana Rosslerova
Joseph A. Serpa
Toni M. Serpa
Cassie M. Shaw
Darrin D. Shorts
Christin K. Slater
Zachary D. Smith
Chelsea M. Stroud
John L. Swisher
Jessica A. Tavares
Jose Torres
Eric A. Trevino
Kandice L. Turner
Jasmine T. Watts
William B. Whitmire



Photo by Roger Teel

Wuerzburg seniors wave to Family members as they take their seats prior to graduation ceremonies Thursday at the Mainfrankensale in Veitshochheim. Fifty-two seniors graduated in the Class of 2007.

*** Senior photo pages for each high school will be published in the June 27 issue.

VHS Class of 2007



Erick Arroyo



Courtney Baer



Jonathan Bidingier



Jinester Bultron

Douglas
Carrothers

Erin Coleman



Brittany Cruz



Charlotte Daniels



Luis DeJesus

Catherine
DelaRosaDetra-Selina
Dornheim

Devon Douglas



David Ferrer

Alexandria
Florendo

Jennifer Floyd

Jacqueline
Gentile

Jayde Graham



Michael Gresham



Kevin Grier



Levi Griffin



Tiffany Griffith



Jamie Grove



Mary Johnston



Kevin Jordan II



John Joyner



Stefanie Kastner



Caroline Land



Joshua Lee



Jose Leon



Christopher Lewis



Rebecca Linka



Jasmine Maine

Ricky McCarthy
Jr.

Alania McKinnis



Hillary McKnight

James
McLaughlin

Jennifer Meredith



Christina Merritt



Ashley Moyer



Mary Nash



Angela Odom



Anthony Perry



Michela Robinson



Nicholas Selvage



Corinna Shields



Eddie Sierra



Corbin Skerit Jr.



Amanda Spoon



Mary Stanley



Shaquita Stewart

Alexandra
Touzinsky

Ronnie Turner



Zachary Walters



Daniel Waters



Jacob White, III

Rebecca
Wischnewski

Simona Womack



Robert Wright



Sean Yates

Not pictured:
Nicole Brena

**Congratulations
VHS graduates!**

Staying safe key to good summer fun

If anyone hasn't noticed the last few weeks, summer is slowing approaching. With that comes many great incentives such as school closures, summer vacations, sun tanning on the beach, barbecues, and numerous other activities.

It is also the time for Fourth of July celebrations.

All of these are great events, but must be enjoyed safely.

I encourage everyone to put on their safety outfits and play the role of safety officer. When using barbecue grills, please don't leave them unattended. Don't let young children play around hot grills and make sure instructions are being observed.



By following simple instructions, not only will you prevent major incidents, but the food will taste better as well.

It is great to get that summer suntan. Just be smart about doing it.

Make sure you use the proper suntan lotion and try not to fall asleep in the sun because the suntan that you were waiting to get could easily end up as a serious sunburn or even sun stroke.

The cheapest suntan lotion isn't always the best. Read the labels before purchasing and see what is best for you.

Everyone likes to swim in the summer and it is highly encouraged—if you can swim. Don't let a few beers be a part of your first-time swimming lessons.

Never swim alone as most pools don't have lifeguards. Very seldom will you find a lifeguard on the beaches so be smart and swim in what you know is your limits.

If you elect to drive throughout Europe, allow yourself plenty of time to get to your destination. If traveling through Austria, make sure you have the green International Motor Insurance Card (740GCV rev. 1-06) as it could save you a lot of money if you are stopped.

Take advantage of any rest stop especially if you are traveling with young children. Make sure your car has the proper tires and all fluid levels are good.

Check to make sure you have all the necessary equipment in case of a breakdown. If your car is barely making it back and forth to Parsberg or Velburg, maybe you shouldn't chance driving it to Venice or France on a four-day weekend or summer vacation.

Hopefully the summer hire program will be just as successful as it was last year. I encourage all the teenagers that are eligible for the summer hire program to take

advantage of it. We are still hoping to hire every one that is eligible or just as many as possible.

I also encourage the teenagers to take advantage of all the summer events and feel free to ask for something that could benefit not just yourself but the entire group. Remember, you will never know if you don't ask.

If you are going to be in the Hohenfels area for the Fourth of July, please come out and see what great events MWR has in store for the community.

If you were in Hohenfels last year and attended the Independence Day celebrations, get the word out to a neighbor or friend to let them know about the great entertainment. I am sure everyone that attended last year had a great time and like every year, MWR raises the bar another level.

I would be remiss if I did not talk about drinking and driving. I

encourage everyone to have a great summer and enjoy the good weather; however, if you are going to drink, please don't jeopardize your career or anyone else's life and drive. Use a designated driver when going out to the clubs at night or if you are traveling in a POV on vacation.

Bottom line, if you are within walking distance and have had a few drinks, just walk. If you are too drunk to walk, call or have someone call you a taxi.

Let's work hard as a team by making sure we have three great months of summer safety with no DWI/DUIs and no serious incidents or accidents. Remember, friends never let friends drive drunk!

*CSM Don Battle
U.S. Army
Garrison Hohenfels*

Take proper measures to prevent Lyme disease

by **DANIEL VOGLESONG**
Special to the Bavarian News

The blacklegged deer tick (of the Ixodes family), at nymph stage carries the dangerous spirochete bacteria (Borrelia burgdorferi), which causes Lyme disease. Human infection is most common during late spring and summer months.

It is very tiny, the size of a pinhead, during its nymph stage of growth. Lyme disease transmission by deer ticks is particularly prevalent here in the Oberpfalz region of Bavaria.

Hunters and troops training in the woods should keep their boots

bloused and apply DEET tick repellent to their clothing. They should carefully check themselves after hiking in tall weeds or shrubs.

Forestry workers should carry tweezers for removing any tick by its mouthparts, and to save the tick in a plastic bag for analysis by a laboratory.

If a medical lab can't analyze the tick to determine if it carries the bacteria, then you must start antibiotic therapy.

The untreated Lyme disease victim may or may not develop a round coin-shaped red rash at the site of the tick bite.

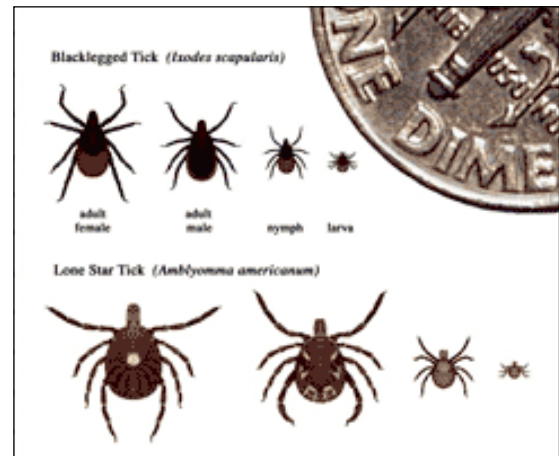
If you do get the red rash, antibiotic therapy is required immediately.

If a person infected with Lyme disease receives no medical treatment, then he will develop permanent nerve damage from this corkscrew-shaped bacteria.

To avoid deer ticks, keep your grass cut short and avoid walking through tall grass and weeds if possible.

Check your pets. Dogs and cats can also pick up deer ticks. Be sure to shower, inspect yourself, and use tick powder on your pets after hiking.

Wash your hiking and hunting clothes or uniform, after each use.



The blacklegged deer tick is the species on top, and the nymph stage is the next to the smallest. The nymph stage of the blacklegged deer tick is the type that carries Lyme disease.

AAFES tire pressure gauges in bar, not PSI

by **BOB COHEN**
Special to the Bavarian News

I was washing my windshield at the AAFES gas station and noticed a woman putting air in the tires of a late model SUV.

What caused me to notice her was how long she was inflating the tires.

I asked her what pressure she was going to, and she said her tires said 45 PSI.

I explained to her that was a maximum rating and that the recommended pressure was on the door.

She opened her door and, sure enough, the recommended pressure was around 33 PSI.

That is not the real hazard in this story. She was using the AAFES tire

gauge which is marked in bar, not PSI! She had already gone to over 4 bar, approximately 65-70 PSI!

If you'll remember the Ford Explorer/Firestone tire episodes from just a few years ago, you'll remember that incorrectly inflated tires on large SUVs caused many fatalities in the US.

Now, introduce autobahn speeds to tires inflated to twice their recommended pressure and 50 percent over their maximum on a vehicle weighing over 5000 pounds and you have the plan for a disaster!

I have said something about the bar vs. PSI gauge to the AAFES gas station folks and been met with indifference and one person even told me that I didn't have to use it if I didn't want to.



Photo by Norbert Wittl

Listen up!

Sheila Casey, wife of Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr., served as keynote speaker at the senior spouses luncheon during the Caseys' June visit to Hohenfels.

First JMRC Spring Golf Classic leaves golfers ready for season

by **WILLIAM CRAVEN**
Special to the Bavarian News

USAG Hohenfels hosted its first JMRC Spring Golf Classic at the Golf und Landclub e.V. Schmidmuhlen May 31, sponsored by the Service Credit Union.

There was an impressive turnout of 51 golfers with each person hoping for their first "hole in one" of the season.

Although none were made, the players enjoyed competing for two other awards -- closest to the pin and longest drive awards which were offered in both the men's and

women's categories.

Marlies Zirngibl walked away with both of the women's awards, while Garry Barrows won the closest to the pin award and Maj. James Collins walked away with the longest drive award in the men's category.

With 13 teams contending for one of the top three positions, it was a race to the end, with two teams tied at eight under for the top spot. Participants had to turn to the score cards to determine the champions.

When all was said and done, Team Saucedo came out on top to and Team Denson took home the second place award, while Team Grady finished at

seven under to claim third place.

The inaugural JMRC Spring Golf Classic was a huge success and excitement is already building for the next USAG Hohenfels tournament in September, so mark your calendars. The winning teams were:

1st Place Team: Lt. Col. James Matheson, Chris Saucedo, Glenn Pietras, and John Cavanaugh.

2nd Place Team: Sgt. 1st Class Bertram Denson, Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan James, and Daniel Mendoza.

3rd Place Team: Maj. James Collins, Sgt. 1st Class Duvon Grady, Sgt. 1st Class Gary Bartlett, and Sgt. 1st Class Troy Dereis.



Photo by Michelle Bragg

Golfers benefit from great spring weather during the inaugural JMRC Spring Golf Classic May 31.

Local contract employee suffers fatal heart attack, loses control of vehicle

Story and photo by
GARRY BARROWS
Staff writer

The calm of the early afternoon of June 4 in Hohenfels was broken by a fatal collision. A local national truck driver suffered a heart attack while making a stop to deliver dairy products at the USAG Hohenfels dining facility. The accident took place on Pershing Drive off General Patton Drive. Driving an Andreas Andresen semi trailer truck, Volker Hinrichsen suffered a heart attack and lost control of the vehicle just before reaching the Deutsche Kantine. Swerving right, the truck hit and damaged five other vehicles, several severely. The truck then moved across the road to the left hitting and damaging two other vehicles. Leaving the road, the truck came

to rest about 10 feet from a barracks just west of the dining facility building, causing additional damage to a light pole and the lawn area. DRK emergency medical personnel and a German physician responded to the scene and conducted CPR and other emergency procedures for the driver, but were unable to revive him. No bystanders were injured. "This is a tragic unfortunate incident and luckily no pedestrians were injured. The magnitude of this accident and the potential consequences should serve as a reminder for pedestrians and drivers to remain alert, expect the unexpected, and always take necessary safety precautions when using the roadway," said Staff Sgt. Clinton Vernieu, a Hohenfels Military Police traffic accident investigator. The incident was also investigated by the German Polizei.



The driver of a semi-trailer truck died after suffering a heart attack and losing control of his vehicle June 4 in Hohenfels.

AAFES Furniture Expo sales total \$52,000

Semi-annual event exceeds officials' expectations, hailed a 'success'

Story and photos by
GARRY BARROWS
Staff writer

The first of what is being promoted as the semi-annual AAFES Hohenfels furniture Expo, held May 31 – June 2 in the Community Activity Center, was heralded as a big success based on \$52,000 in sales during the 3-day event. The CAC was set up with complete displays of furniture including living room suites with entertainment centers, bedroom ensembles, dining

rooms, major appliances, recliners, infant furniture, and ready-to-assemble items. Accessories like lamps, occasional tables, nightstands, bedding sets, and vanities were also on display to provide total home furnishing experience for residents. "I think it was a wonderful event for the community," AFFES council member Precilla Tolbert said. "Our people really enjoyed it. We (as the council) wanted something like this to happen for the community and

it turned out beautifully." "I thought it was great," said USAG Hohenfels Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Battle. "The delivery service was truly professional. "There was great customer service. I look forward to it coming back again," said Battle. "It exceeded all of our expectations," said newly arrived PX Manager Sam Shinault. "It was a team effort with MWR along with our Vilseck furniture associates and the Hohenfels PX

staff," said Shinault. USAG Hohenfels Garrison Commander Col. James Matheson was encouraged by the success of the Expo. "This very successful furniture sale is a tangible result of the efforts of our Hohenfels community AAFES council," said Matheson. "These volunteers from across the Hohenfels community have worked hard to become the voice of the AAFES customer in Hohenfels. "I and the community thank the

volunteers for their many hours of service and I am particularly pleased that they have been able to witness the fruits of their labor," added Matheson. "This is only the very beginning of a new relationship between AAFES and the customers in the Hohenfels community," Matheson said. Now that Hohenfels residents know what to expect, garrison officials believe it is likely that the next Expo, scheduled for later this fall, will be even more successful.



By taking the furniture store to the customers, shoppers were able to see and try out furniture before making purchases. Purchased items were then delivered directly to their homes.

Hohenfels hosts high school baseball tournament

Story and photo by
RACHEL HARTMAN
Special to the Bavarian News

Nothing but positive remarks came from coaches, players, and spectators about the 2007 IMCOM-Europe high school baseball championship tournament May 25-27 in Hohenfels. Teams traveled from Heidelberg, Ramstein, Kaiserslautern, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Rota (Spain), and Aviano (Italy) to participate in this year's tournament. Over the Memorial Day weekend, 16 baseball games were played in Hohenfels and at the Regensburg baseball arena to determine who would play in the championship game. At the end of those games, two teams remained undefeated and were matched up for the championship - the Rota Admirals from Pool 1 and the Ramstein Rhinos from Pool 2.

The championship proved to be a rare high school pitchers' duel with Ramstein unable to overcome the three-hit shutout pitching of Rota's Nick Delgado. In a 4 – 0 shutout, Rota High School became the 2007 IMCOM Europe high school baseball champions. "They practiced hard, played hard, and showed it on the field," said Head Coach Robert Lamb of the Rota Admirals. "I'm happy we won the game. This is our first year here and our first big tournament playing peers close to our age," he said. "We are used to playing against active duty Marines, Navy, and Air Force teams." "Coming to this tournament was a great pleasure and terrific experience," said Andrew Bankey, a First Team All European player from

the Rota Admirals. All European Baseball Teams: **First team**—Nicholas Delgado (tournament MVP) and Andrew Bankey, Rota; Kyle Sanders, Ramstein 2; Aaron Jones, Ramstein 1; Devin Smith, Vogelweh; Kyle Hernandez, Aviano; Darrold Harper, Wiesbaden; Sal Katz, Heidelberg; William Pomares, Vilseck; and John Mesch, Hohenfels. **Second team**—Gavon Byrd and Tyler Tucker, Ramstein 2; Nolan Stark, Vilseck; Blake Holmund, Heidelberg; Sayf Kone, Vogelweh; Andre Murray, Ramstein 1; Randy Taylor, Hohenfels; John Ingersoll and Anthony Lamb, Rota. **Rota team members hoists their trophy after winning the 2007 IMCOM-E tournament.**



Community Spotlight

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Garrison School Update

Tomorrow: Last day of school. Early release will take place at about noon at all schools.

Student Registration continues at all schools. Register now so that staffing for next school year can be accurate. Check school newsletters and Web site for details, including school supplies required for next school year. Even if you are not sure where you will be for start of school on Aug. 27, register now. It is easier to withdraw students in August than adding students after teacher staffing has been finalized.

School Contact Numbers:
VES 476-2812
GES 475-7133
GMS 475-9500
VHS 476-2554
School Transportation 475-9525

Celebrate Asian Pacific heritage month with a Luau

June 23: Join us from 12 - 5 p.m. at Big Mike Lake. Features include cultural dances and expressions, food samplings, and many fun activities for children. Admission is free. For more information, contact Mr. Cablay at CIV 09641-83-8825 or Sgt.1st Class Galloway at CIV 0171-7486265.

Bus Schedule: Pickup starting at 10:30 a.m. from the 2SCR Dining Facility to the PX parking lot to the Vilseck Elementary School and then to Big Mike Lake. The last bus will leave Big Mike Lake at 5:30 p.m. to take people back to the pickup points.

SKIES Unlimited classes

Beginning in June: Children of all ages can sign-up for the following classes: ballet camp, karate, kinder ballet, tae kwon do, kinder gym/ kinder yoga, self defense, and dance awareness. For information, call DSN 476-2760, CIV 09662-83-2760 or Grafenwoehr DSN 475-6656, CIV 09641-83-6656 or e-mail: cysinfo@eur.army.mil.

Don’t miss end-of-school barbecue tomorrow evening

Tomorrow: All youth 6th-12th grade are invited to the Outdoor Recreation in Vilseck from noon to10 p.m. to celebrate summer!

Kids enjoy sports, contests, prizes, food and refreshments. For more information, call CYS Central Registration at Graf, DSN 475-6656 or Vilseck, DSN 476-2760.

CYS youth golf summer camp kicks off Friday

Friday: Sign your child up for golf lessons in etiquette, rules, and driving range work. For more information, call Youth Sports Director Dan Frazier at DSN 476-4037.

Teen Center offers summer dance for local youth

June 23: The CYS Vilseck Teen Center will host a Teen Dance at the Rose Recreation Center, Bldg. 227 (formerly Yesterday’s Club). All youth and parents are invited to participate. Contact the Vilseck MS/ Teen Center at DSN 476-3144

Vilseck, Graf property book office closed through Friday

Through Friday: Due to conversion from DPAS (Defense Property Accountability System) to PBUSE (Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced) the Property Book Office Grafenwoehr (DSN 475-7178) and Vilseck (DSN 476-2546) will not process any transactions May 28-June 1.

Fourth of July celebrations set at Vilseck Army Airfield

Soldiers, Families, and guests are invited to celebrate at the Vilseck Army Airfield from 3 -11 p.m.
All day, enjoy pay-as-you-go food, refreshments, and attractions when you buy a bracelet (\$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under).
Musical entertainment, general access, and fireworks are free.
A free shuttle bus will run from locations at Vilseck and Graf.
Wear your red, white and blue to this truly patriotic event!

Vilseck pool hosts party

A beach party will be held at the Vilseck Outdoor Pool Friday at 7 p.m.

Bavarian exhibition open

Bavarian State Exhibition 2007 – Bavaria-Bohemia-1500 years Neighborhood “Golden Road” a d Althars Exhibition at the Vilseck Castle Dagestein through Oct. 20. Open on Sunday and German holidays, 1 – 6 p.m. <http://www.vilseck.de/index1.htm>

Dragoon Inn closed

Dragoon Inn, Bldg. 612, will be closed until Sunday. The Stryker Inn will remain open, serving breakfast from 6:30-8:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and dinner 4:30-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, brunch will be from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and supper will be 4-5:30 p.m.

Looking for a place to conduct training?

Why not contact your local Joint Multinational Training Command Digital Training Facility? Every facility has several air-conditioned classrooms with 16 multi-media computer workstations with internet access and video teletraining capability. These classrooms are also ideal for individuals seeking a quiet place to work on-line on self-development courses. For more information, contact your local DTF manager at the following numbers:
■ Grafenwoehr DTF – DSN 474-2381 – CIV 09641-454-2381 – Location: Bldg. 3144, Camp Normandy
■ Vilseck DTF– DSN 476-3758 – CIV 09662-83-3758 – Location: Bldg. 355, Rose Barracks

AAFES seeking employees for September PX opening

As many of you know or might not know, our new Grafenwoehr shopping complex will be opening in late September.
Our Human Resources Office is now taking applications for the new PX. We will have 25 positions open for help setting up the store. This is a great opportunity in getting involved in the set up of your new store and being paid to do it.
Stop by the Grafenwoehr HR office in Bldg. 533. They are open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. HRO DSN 475-7707; CIV 09641-3392.
Besides the new PX job offers, we have a wide range of opening going on now from food to retail at Hohenfels, Vilseck, and Grafenwoehr.
Visit <http://odin.aafes.com/employment/default.asp>, click on entry-level, click on Europe, and then click on Grafenwoehr. You will see all the current openings for the three Exchanges.

Local training available

The Civilian Human Resource Agency Europe, Human Resource Development Division offers professional development and training opportunities at various locations in Europe.
The courses are open to DA civilians, LN’s, and military. The tuition cost is free for these courses.
To check out more about the kind of training offered, course descriptions and schedule, go to our Web site <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm> click on “Training & Development” then click on “HRDD Courses in Europe.” The course schedule lists current courses in Europe. The course description lists potential courses for Europe.
To enroll in a course, click on the enroll button to the left of the course date and title. This will automatically take you to our on-line application. Your first step is to complete a Civilian Human Resources Training Administration System profile.
You must create a student profile first before you register for any course. The profile requires your email address and other information beyond your SSN/ ECN and date of birth. After you have completed your profile in CHRTAS, open up the course announcement you would like to apply for, this will lead you to the application process.
For those who have completed a profile, please check your e-mail address in CHRTAS. Due to the server migration, many e-mail addresses have changed!
Upcoming courses:
■ July 17-20, Report Writing, Grafenwoehr
■ July 30-31, Communication Skills,

Grafenwoehr
■ Aug. 1-2, Presentating Statistics Using Charts & Graphics, Grafenwoehr,
■ Aug. 14-16, Basic English Writing Skills, Grafenwoehr
Seats at the Digital Training Facility is limited to 16 persons only. Military members are encouraged to attend.

PPPO urges contact as soon as orders are received

The following notice applies to the shipment of household goods, unaccompanied baggage, and personally owned vehicles:
In preparation for the summer shipping season; we advise all Soldiers, civilians, and family members to contact the personal property processing office immediately upon receipt of orders.
The PPPO is located in Vilseck, Bldg. 700, and can be reached at DSN 476-2668 (inbound) and DSN 476-2860 (outbound). POC is Hans Hoels, DSN 476-2529.

OCS board dates announced

The 7th US Army Joint Multinational Training Command Officer Candidate School Board will be conducted on July 10 at 9 a.m. in Bldg. 109, 2nd floor conference room.
Soldier’s packets are due to the G1 not later than June 22. Ensure that all packets are thoroughly reviewed prior to submission.
The point of contact is Sgt. Felix Aviles, at DSN 475-7095.

Catholic Vacation Bible School set for June 25-29

June 25-29: The Catholic Community of USAG-Grafenwoehr is inviting you to attend the Vacation Bible School at the Vilseck Chapel from 9 a.m. - noon. E-mail allison.mako@us.army.mil for more information or call the Vilseck Chapel at DSN 476-1570.

Percussion concert Saturday

Saturday: Percussion concert at the Schlossgaststaette Kaibitz next to Kemnath with Beatrix van de Bovenkamp and the BEAT-Percussion-Ensemble at 8 p.m. The young German percussion group drums themselves into the hearts of the audience with the theme “We beat it all!”
The “BEAT-Percussion Ensemble” performs not only with multi-faceted, virtuous and brilliant technical skills; they also do great on exotic instruments and guarantee the perfect groove. The repertoire goes from classics, modern, swing, rock, pop, and Latin-American and Brazilian rhythms. Also performances with barrels, buckets, and pottery are included.
Interested in learning how to play drums? For more information, see www.Beat-rix.de.

Emperor Castle concerts held through July

Now - July: Classic’s with candle-light at the Knight’s Hall. Hoertnagel.konzert@t-online.de

Hohenfels Briefs

Health clinic announces hours for sports physicals

The health clinic will be holding Saturday clinic hours from 8-11 a.m. on July 14 and Aug. 25 for CYS and high school sports physicals.
Note that these days are specifically for sports physicals and not for yearly school or CDC physicals or for well-baby/children appointments. Call DSN 466-1750 to schedule your appointment.

Sure Start program at HES

Hohenfels Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2007-2008 school year. If you have a child who is four or will be four by October 31, 2007 and you are an E4 or lower in rank, come by the elementary school and fill out an application.
At this time all we need is your LES and the application. Priority will be given to E-1 to E-4 or GS-1 to GS-4. Those with the greatest need using a criteria list will be considered.
E-5/GS-5 to E-9/GS-9 and above may apply and be given consideration by the selection committee only if space is available. For more information, call DSN 466- 2729 or CIV 09472-83-2729.

Hallo Hohenfels scheduled for later this month

The dates for our magical 5-day newcomers’ orientation, Hallo Hohenfels, have been changed for the month of June.
Due to several conflicting events, the program will be held one week later than originally scheduled from June 25-29 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at ACS, Bldg. 317.
Call DSN 466-4860 for information .

Workout classes cancelled

Spinning, step aerobics, and personal training with Silvia will be cancelled June 25 - July 6 for vacation time.

Customs forms needed before visitors can drive

If you have friends and relatives that are planning to visit you here in Germany and would like to drive your USAREUR-plated car, go to the local customs office in advance and obtain the respective customs form.
What we need in order to fill out the form is the sponsor’s ID card, the vehicle registration, the visitor’s passport (copy is enough), and a copy of the visitor’s driving license.
Make sure your guests get an international driver’s license in the United States, otherwise, they will need a certified German translation of the stateside driver’s license (which costs between 30 and 40 Euros and takes up to one week to obtain).
For more information, contact the Customs Field Office Hohenfels in Bldg. 10, Rm. 118 at DSN 466-2012 or 2745. Office hours are Monday through

Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on U.S. holidays.

Summer Sporting Camps

Youth Sports Camps will begin Monday. Camps will be offered to youth that have just completed first-eighth grade.
For school age children (first-sixth grade) camps are: Monday-June 29 - track and field, July 2-13 - flag football, July 16-27 - soccer, July 30-Aug. 10 - basketball/cheerleading, and Aug. 13-25 - bowling. Cost for camps (first-sixth grade): \$20.
Middle school (seventh and eighth grade) camps are: Monday-June 29 - wrestling/tennis, July 2-13 - flag football/volleyball, July 16-27 - soccer, July 30-Aug. 10 - basketball/ cheerleading, and Aug. 13-25 - baseball/ softball. Cost for camps (seventh and eighth grade): \$10.

Register your youth at CLEOS, Bldg. 96. For more information on camps, call DSN: 466-2488/2558.
Pre-registration open until Friday for families that wish to register their children before summer vacation .

USAREUR well-being survey now available


Here is your chance to provide command leadership with your opinion of the well being of the Army family in Europe. All of your data will be compiled by an independent organization. To present accurate information, you are invited to take the survey at the Yellow Ribbon Room, Bldg. 40 or at ACS, Bldg. 317.
The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. It must be taken on site and may not be taken home. It is valuable information and you are encouraged to set aside the time to benefit all of the USAREUR family. The deadline is Friday.
Call DSN 466-4860 for information.

Red Cross Closure

The Hohenfels Red Cross office will be closed until June 22. You may contact a Red Cross representative by calling DSN 466-1760 or CIV 09472-83-1760.
Your call will be forwarded to the Vilseck Red Cross Office.
If you wish to enroll in the June 27 Babysitting Course at Hohenfels, you may pay after June 22. The cost for the course is \$35.00.
For more information, call DSN 446-1760 or CIV 09472-83-1760.

Chaplain Happenings

■ **H20 Discipleship Group** for teens in junior high or high school meets Thursday evenings at 5 p.m. The current theme is relationships. POC is Chris Howard, Club Beyond representative, at DSN 466-4793 or CIV 09472-834793.
■ **Christ’s Commandos (C2)** is church just for kids. We meet in the Post Theater on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month, 10:45 a.m.- noon. We have skits, puppets, music, and games.



U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

Seek diligently to discover the truth, deterred neither by fear nor prejudice

Contact your local CID Office or visit www.cid.army.mil

Qualifications


- Be an E-5 or below
- Branch Immaterial
- Be a US Citizen
- GT score of 110 or higher
- Have 60 college credit hours
- No court martial convictions
- Internships available

Become A CID Special Agent

We are seeking qualified Soldiers to become highly trained special agents. If you are motivated and ready for the challenge, we want you on our team!

Points of Contact

Hanau CID	DSN: 323-2863
Wiesbaden CID	DSN: 337-6554
Baumholder CID	DSN: 485-9021
Kaiserslautern CID	DSN: 493-2069
Mannheim CID	DSN: 385-3606
Netherlands CID	DSN: 364-6162
Darmstadt CID	DSN: 349-6130



What’s Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Vacation Bible School set

The USAG Ansbach chaplain’s office hosts Vacation Bible School on Katterbach Kaserne and Storck Barracks in August.

The school will be held Aug. 6-10 at the Illesheim Chapel and Aug. 13-17 at the Katterbach Chapel.

For more on Vacation Bible School, call John Edwards at DSN 467-2685 or CIV 09802-832-685.

Health Alert

The Center for Disease Control learned that a patient with XDR TB traveled to Europe via commercial airline (Air France # 385) departing Atlanta on May 12 and arriving in Paris on May 13.

He then returned to the United States after taking a commercial flight on May 24 from Prague, Czech Republic, to Montreal, Canada (Czech Air # 0104). The patient re-entered the U.S. on May 24 via an automobile.

Since May 25, the patient has been hospitalized in respiratory isolation and is undergoing additional medical evaluation.

If anyone in the community was on one of these flights, please report to the health clinic.

Underground holds auditions for live entertainment

The Underground club on Bismarck Kaserne is looking for bands to provide live entertainment.

The club is interested in all types of musical formats such as rock, rhythm and blues, blues, etc.

To set up an audition, call Daniel Cooper at DSN 467-2935 or CIV 09802-832-935 or CIV 0175-805-3213.

Also, the Underground hosts Country and Western Music Night every Friday from 2-10 p.m.

The club offers bingo Saturday at 5 p.m., and cash and prizes will be awarded.

ACAP counseling available

Soldiers who have been extended due to a deployment, and who anticipate separating from active duty shortly after reintegration, are required to receive Army Career and Alumni Program pre-separation counseling prior to the deployment.

Pre-separation counseling is available by appointment for individuals or groups.

Call DSN 467-3312 for more information.

Portrait studio now open

Cobbled Corner Crafts includes a portrait studio that specializes in family and baby portraits. The studio is open Thursdays 3-8 p.m., Fridays noon-5 p.m., the first Saturday of each month 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and the third Sunday of each month 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more, call DSN 468-7627 or CIV 0981-183-627.

ACS programs help new parents manage demands

USAG Ansbach Army Community Service offers a new parent support program to help community members cope with stress, manage the demands of parenting—including single parenting—build a support network and find services in the community that can help them.

The free program is open to all parents with children three or younger, even if there are older children in the home. NPSP is staffed by a licensed clinical social worker and provides one-on-one support for new parents.

The services include home visits, labor and delivery classes, parenting classes, playgroups, referrals to other resources, and counseling.

For more, call DSN 467-2516 or CIV 09802-83-2516 in Katterbach, or DSN 467-4752 or CIV 09841-83-4752 in Illesheim.

Social Work Services programmed to help

USAG Ansbach Social Work Services has numerous programs to help Soldiers and their families deal with deployment and general life stressors.

SWS offers a stress management group Thursdays 1-2:30 p.m. and an anger management group Wednesdays 1-2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 5817 on the second floor.

SWS also has several programs that deal especially with deployment, like Beat the “Bye Bye” Blues—learn how to thrive, not just survive, the challenges of deployment—and a Warriors Group for Soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder or combat-related stress. SWS also conducts family readiness group briefings to meet the needs of unit FRGs.

For more information on these or other programs offered through SWS, call DSN 467-2850 or CIV 09802-83-2850.

FCC experts provide training in child care

USAG Ansbach Family Child Care offers community members the opportunity to make money by providing child care services in their home. FCC experts offer the necessary training and certification to become a FCC professional. Also, FCC recruits for trained and certified professionals to care for infants and toddlers.

FCC professionals participating in the infant food program will receive \$75 each month. Reimbursement for children four weeks to 17 months is \$250 a month and the monthly reimbursement for children 18 to 36 months is \$150. A lending library for this age specific group is available from FCC free of charge.

For more information on operating an infant or toddler child care home or on becoming an FCC professional, call Stacey Middleton at DSN 467-2536 or CIV 09802-832-536.

Early intervention aids child development, EDIS says

Educational and developmental intervention services offers community parents early intervention services designed to support families who have concerns or questions about their infant’s or toddler’s development.

EDIS officials said early intervention providers can help families identify if their child has a delay through an evaluation of the child’s current abilities. If your child has a delay, your family may be eligible for early intervention services.

The goal of early intervention is to make sure that all children are ready to learn when they reach school age, said EDIS officials.

If you are concerned with some aspect of your child’s development or have questions about child development, stop by the EDIS office in Bleidorn Housing, Bldg. 5083 (next to the library) or call DSN 468-7811 or CIV 0981-183-811 to schedule an appointment.

Free training offered for respite care providers

The USAG Ansbach exceptional family member program seeks respite care providers to give families with members with special needs a break from their daily routines and stresses. Respite care providers earn extra income while helping family members with special needs. Training is provided and background checks are conducted.

Also, families enrolled with EFMP who meet eligibility guidelines can sign up to receive respite care.

For more, call EFMP at DSN 467-2516 or CIV 09802-832-516.

Bamberg Briefs

Report unsolicited e-mails

Bamberg Field Office, 66th MI Group would like to remind you to notify Counterintelligence Special Agents if you receive unsolicited emails.

Recent reports indicate that internet sites used by U.S. Service personnel and their family members are being targeted for exploitation. Should you receive an unsolicited email or if you are redirected during internet use to a suspicious website, contact the Bamberg Field Office immediately at DSN 469-8742 or CIV 0951-300-8742. Agents are on call 24/7 for your convenience.

JFK Gym temporarily closed for renovations

The JFK Gym is currently closed for renovation that will result in a new Child and Youth Services Sports and Teen Center. The first phase of the project will replace the roof and repair the façade.

Interior work will continue through the fall and winter with a grand opening currently scheduled for the middle of Jan. 2008.

The facility is expected to be a hallmark of the CYS program in Europe. The CYS Sports and Fitness Office will be temporarily located at the OASIS, Bldg. 7669.

BES dress code remains the same after 2:1 vote

The voting for the Bamberg Elementary School dress code is over and has produced a 2:1 margin of votes in favor of the BES Community Dress Code for school year 07/08.

The current community dress code will remain in place as it is for Bamberg Elementary School. For more info, call DSN 469-1770.

BES June newsletter online

The June edition of the Bamberg Elementary School newsletter is available online at <http://www.bamb-es.eu.dodea.edu/> A copy may also be picked up at the school.

Register for tackle football, soccer through Aug. 3

CYS Sports registration for tackle football and soccer is open now through August 3.

Tackle football is open to ages 8 to 14 and cost \$84. Soccer is open to ages 3 to 15 and costs \$36. Please register at CYS Central Registration and Enrollment (CER), Bldg. 7340 or call DSN 469-8660 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Call DSN 469-8641 for information.

New fitness classes offered

Get off the couch and into the gym and try one of the new fitness classes being offered at the Freedom Fitness Facility. Hawaiian and Tahitian Dance (*starts June 26*), Cardio Kick Box, Total Body Stretch, Aerobic Body Blast: Balls, Bells and Bands (*Class geared towards “Tots in Tow” participants*), Step Aerobics, Tae Kwon Do, or Mixed Martial Arts. The new course schedule can be found in the June edition of the monthly MWR Guide available at any MWR facility.

Ivey Hand Bell Ringers to play at Theater

The Ivey Hand Bell Ringers from Charlotte, NC, will be performing a free concert at the Bamberg Stable Theater on Mon. June 25 at 7:30 p.m. The group plays a wide range of popular music including gospel and show tunes. Contact the Stable Theater for more information at CIV 0951-00-8647.

Summer equipment rentals available at the CAC

The Community Activity Center’s Outdoor Recreation shop located in Bldg. 7047 offers camping, BBQ, and recreation equipment rentals all summer long. The shop has everything you need for a camping trip or summer BBQ. Two to eight-person tents, sleeping bags and pads, backpacks, camping stoves and cooking sets, coolers, canopies, fest tables, small and large grills, canoes, kayaks and paddles, wetsuits, and personal floatation devices. Rent the dunk tank for your unit or private party. A price list is available at the CAC or contact ODR at CIV 0951-300-8659

Commissary takes special orders for bakery, deli

Having a picnic, party or large get together? The Bamberg commissary accepts special orders for cakes, breads, bakery items, deli meat and cheese platters, fruit and vegetable trays, dried goods, chilled or frozen items.

Advance ordering is required and items may only be picked up during regular business hours. Call DSN 469-7204 for the bakery or DSN 469-7204 for the produce, meat, or grocery departments.

Attend VA benefits briefing

Ask the experts! Attend the next ACAP V.A. benefits briefing on Tuesday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Post Movie Theater. The briefing will explain what VA programs and services are available. Open to the entire military community. Additional VA briefings are set July 24 and Aug. 28.

Buy and sell used cars on authorized lot only

Are you moving to CONUS and need to sell your German-Spec vehicle? Or are you looking to buy a gently used

vehicle to get you around locally? Take advantage of the Bamberg community “Lemon Lot” to buy or sell a used car.

The lot is located on George Washington Loop up the street from the Stable Theater and the Laundromat. Vehicles must be registered at the Military Police Station prior to parking them in the lot.

For more information, contact the Vehicle Registration Office which is located in room 118 at the Military Police Station.

Vehicles in the lot not registered with the MP Station will be treated as abandoned, towed and owners will be fined.

Join the AAFES team

The Bamberg AAFES facilities are looking for energetic, customer service-oriented people to fill entry level retail and food service positions.

If this describes you, then apply online today at www.aafes.com.

Well-being Survey available at ACS through Friday

All Soldiers, civilians, retirees, and Family members are encouraged to stop by ACS Bldg. 7029 and take the USAREUR well-being survey now through Friday.

Your opinion counts so stop by today.

Heating lines replaced in Flynn housing area

Beginning end of May through mid August, heating lines will be replaced at various locations along Maple, Beech and Elm streets. Work will be at or near Bldgs. 7659 through 7666, and 7645, 7656, 7658. No service interruptions are expected.

Weekly Golf Scramble set for every Thursday

Join the weekly Thursday Night Scramble Golf Tournament at 5 p.m. at Bamberg’s Whispering Pines Golf Course.

Entry fee is only \$5 per person. Please register by 4:30 p.m. Tournament starts at 5 p.m. Call DSN 469-8953 for more information.

Commissary parking lot lights to be replaced

Throughout the month of June, the Commissary parking lot lighting will be replaced.

Parking will be affected intermittently during the work but traffic patterns and pedestrian access will not be changed.

Adult volunteers needed for scouting programs

The Bamberg Boy Scouts is in need of adult volunteers immediately. Help support a fun-filled, worthwhile program that teaches values.

For more information, call Carlos Lopez at CIV 0151-111-85141 or Erik Verhoef at CIV 0170-668-7458.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Best Ball golf tournament set

The USAG Schweinfurt will hold a Best Ball golf tournament Saturday at the Loeffelsterz Golf Course in Schweinfurt. Registration runs from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m., and tee-off is at 8:30 a.m.

Tournament is open to all U.S. ID card holders 18 and older. Participation is limited to 18 four-person teams. Entry fee must be paid on the day of the event, in euro. For more information, call DSN 353-8234 or CIV 09721-96-8234.

Parents’ Day Out respite care sign-ups going on now

Sign-ups are ongoing for Child & Youth Services’ Parents’ Day Out Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Children will be cared for at no cost to families. Open to children ages six weeks to fifth grade.

Children must be registered with CYS and reservations in person must be made in advance. Registration begins Monday. Call DSN 354-6414 or CIV 09721-96-6414.

MLB Envoy coach visits

The USAG Schweinfurt will host professional baseball coach John Noce

Monday and Tuesday. Noce will conduct baseball clinics in both Schweinfurt, at Kessler Field, and in Wuerzburg, on Leighton Barracks.

Children ages 6 to 18 are welcome to come learn from one of the best, as are volunteer coaches. Monday, the clinic will be held in Schweinfurt, and Tuesday in Wuerzburg.

For more information, call DSN 354-6822.

‘7 Habits’ classes available

Learn the “7 Habits of Highly Effective Army Families” with USAG Schweinfurt Army Community Services June 26-28 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Leighton Community Activities Center.

Based on the successful “7 Habits” series of books by Stephen R. Covey, this interactive workshop will help you develop and maintain a successful military family. Childcare is available.

Call DSN 354-6933 or DSN 350-7103 to register today.

Class teaches about teen employment options

The Ledward Army Community Service Center offers a Teen Employment Options class to help you and your teen discover and take advantage of unique employment opportunities unique to our community. Class runs Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call DSN 354-6933 for more information or to sign up.

Couples’ communication workshop held June 21

Learn to build trust and friendship with your spouse with a little help from the Leighton Army Community Service Center June 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Discover your communication style and practice conflict resolution skills as a part of this all-day seminar. Call DSN 350-7103 for more information.

Family-friendly trips offered

Enjoy free transportation for you and your family to Neuschwanstein Castle Saturday, or Europa Park June 23. Trip will depart from Schweinfurt and Wuerburg.

Bring Euro for entrance fees and food. Call DSN 350-6305 or CIV 0931-889-6305 for more information.

Sign up for AFTB level II

Join the Army Family Team Building level two class June 26-29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Ledward Barracks.

Build on what you started in the level one class. Call for more information or to sign up at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6751.

Get some GUTS

Are you a teen, new to the community? Wish you new a bit more about your new home? Then GUTS (Giving Understanding to Teens in Schweinfurt) is just for you!

Learn useful German phrases, how to manage Euro and exchange rates, and take a stroll around downtown Schweinfurt.

This quarterly session runs Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning in the Education Center on Ledward Barracks. For more info, call DSN 354-6933.

Depression management classes held Wednesdays

The USAG Schweinfurt Army Community Service Center on Ledward Barracks is conducting an ongoing series of Depression Management classes from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays.

Explore non-medicinal ways to relieve anxiety June 20, and learn more about postpartum depression June 27.

Find support, resources, and information to manage and reduce depression symptoms and its effects on daily life.

Call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

FCC providers needed

Ever dream of being your own boss? Like working with children? Come join the team of dedicated professionals at Family Child Care.

FCC professionals offer an essential service by helping provide child care for the community, and at the same time they are running their own business from the comfort of their homes.

Stop by the FCC office on Leighton Barracks, Bldg. T1 173, or Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224, and find out how you can get started today!



Bridges are necessary to cross the river in some parts of the city.

Story and photos by
GARRY BARROWS
Staff writer

On to Nuremberg, the second largest city in Bavaria. While it is easy to drive to the city, taking the train is really a fun way to arrive.

The Bahnhof is located right on the edge of the old city only a short walk up the Konigstrasse from many of the main attractions and great shopping areas.

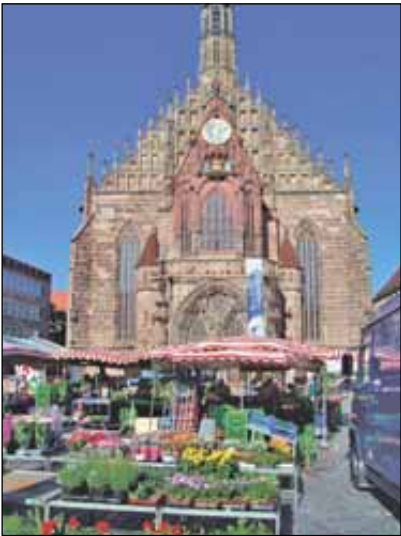
The only problem is by starting here, you may be too tired to enjoy the castle located at the other end of the Altstadt and as castles tend to be, it is on a hill. So we'll start there.

Nuremberg has more than 1,000 years of history as one of the most influential cities in central Europe especially during its Golden Age (1100 – 1500) as a medieval trade center.

Be sure to visit the **Kaiserburg Castle**, which sits majestically over the city. The gardens are beautifully maintained and free to view. The castle itself has many attractions including the deep well and the **Sinwell Tower**. The medieval feel of the castle could make it a really special place to you.

As in any city that is over 1,000 years old, there are many interesting and ancient churches. We are going to discuss three.

The first one you will come across on your way down the hill from the castle is **St. Sebald**. On April 20, 1945, the church was



The Frauenkirche, located in the Hauptmarkt, is the largest Catholic church in a primarily Protestant area.

heavily damaged, but the residents of Nuremberg would not allow it to become a casualty of war and the church was meticulously restored.

A story has been passed down through the ages concerning the location of the church.

It was said when St. Sebald passed away; he had left instruction to have his coffin placed on a cart drawn by a donkey. Wherever the donkey stopped would be the spot to build his church. Be sure to stop in and say hi to St. Sebald who is in attendance.

Only a little further is the **Hauptmarkt** or main market.

This is the location of the **Christkindlesmarkt**, one of the best festivals - holiday or otherwise - in Germany, and is held during late November and December.

During other times such as now, the market hosts several outdoor eating areas and a farmers market. Fresh produce and flowers are almost always available.

Besides the impressive nature of the square, there are two great attractions around the market.

The first is the **Schoner Brunnen** or the "Beautiful Well", built in 1396, which was the city water source for consumption and agriculture for more than 600 years.

Today the Gothic style monument is a gathering point for the people of the city.

The second is the Gothic **Frauenkirche** or the Church of our Lady that dominates over the square. Begun in 1351, it has been the main Catholic Church in Protestant Nuremberg for centuries and features a 400-year-old animated clock that performs once a day at noon.

The **Pegnitz River** meanders through the city in a peaceful sort of way. There are nine bridges to contemplate the slow moving waterway and one seems to come along just when you need a short break.

Heading back towards the train station you will run into **St. Lawrence Church**.

Once again, a brilliant example of Gothic design that houses a magnificent wood sculpture.

The Angelic Salutation by Viet Stoss, one of the most beautiful examples of German Renaissance sculpture. Anton II Tucher, the highest official of Nuremberg of the time, commissioned the work in 1517.

There are so many other

wonderful things to do and see in Nuremberg including toy and rail museums, a zoo with a dolphinarium, an English movie theatre, Zeppelin Field site of the Nazi Rallies you've seen in WWII news reels, canal cruises and many more too numerous to list.

Yet there are three more things to note that may be of interest to many people.

Food. Nuremberg is a modern city with restaurants in great variety and frequency. So when you come for an afternoon, plan to find a new restaurant and have dinner in the city.

Not to be forgotten is the restaurant competing with the Schricker Historische Wurstkuechen in Regensburg as the oldest bratwurst restaurant in the world.

Sadly it is not as centrally located as the Wurstkuchen, it claims to be the original founded in 1419. That's 588 years of bratwurst.

For all of you who would like to sample both of the restaurants and decide for yourselves, this one is located at Zirkelschmiedsgasse 26.

Perhaps the easiest thing to do is go to the information office located immediately across the street as you walk out of the train station underground tunnel leading to the city.

Get a map and ask their help to find it. They speak great English and can be very helpful.

If bratwurst is not your choice, there are all kinds of restaurants and



(Above) The old city wall still surrounds the city of Nuremberg. (At right) The castle gardens add a dash of color to the neatly trimmed grounds.

if you have a taste for something, let the information people aim you in the right direction.

Shopping. If you can't find what you want in Nuremberg, you just aren't trying. There are many modern stores of all kinds located down nearly every street.

The shopping district starts as you exit from the bahnhof underground with the Handwerkhof, a unique conclave of souvenir and craft shops built in the medieval half-timbered style.

Once you're done, there is S. Oliver, Enders, Kaufhof and hundreds of other stores and boutiques selling the latest in fashion and style. Just coming to Nuremberg for the shopping will provide you a fun day.

People Watching. There are few cities to rival Nuremberg for being able to sit down anywhere and just watch people. Old, young and everywhere in between.

You will discover there are no colors that cannot be combined and no area of the body that can't be pierced in abundance.

If you used to go the mall just to hang out, you will find that is about eighth on the Nuremberg people watching and places-to-be scale. Don't be surprised if hanging around in Nuremberg doesn't become one of your favorite things.

Whatever it is you enjoy, it's in Nuremberg. You will have fun!



Street musicians are common sights throughout the city.



One of four towers surrounding the city. The pictured tower is located at the Bahnhof entrance to downtown.



School staff, friends celebrate life of deceased student during memorial

Story and photos by JIM HUGHES
Bavarian News

Hundreds of Ansbach High School staff, students, and community members gathered in the school cafeteria June 1 to celebrate the life and cope with the death of a 17-year-old AHS senior.

Katherine Anne Kimmel died in an automobile accident May 28 on B13 near Illesheim. She was due to graduate with her class at the school's graduation ceremony June 7 at the Ansbach Orangerie.

While shocked and racked with grief at the loss of their friend, student, and teammate, the school staff and Kimmel's friends who organized the memorial focused on Katie's life and the effect her "infectious" personality had on them all.

"She was beautiful, she was tall, she was loud, she had personality, ... she was also incredibly intelligent," said Jennifer Rowland, school principal, at the memorial. "In her quiet and consistent day-after-day and year-after-year way, she was a wonderful student. Sometimes it's not cool to be smart and Katie had a lot of other stuff going for her. She was smart and she never wasted that."

Rowland then tearfully read a

citation Kimmel received from President Bush recognizing her academic achievement for maintaining a 3.5 GPA and scoring better than 85 percent of the country's students on national standardized tests and announced her graduated from Ansbach High School.

Amber Mack, Joshlyn Learn, and Kayla Eidson—Kimmel's friends—spoke about their time with Kimmel, who was active in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, and the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

"She always had a way of making everyone smile, and I think maybe it was her smile," Learn said. "Katie was so many things. Remember how she was, and how she loved each and every one of you."

Eidson added that she had been friends with Kimmel since their sophomore year.

"Every moment I spent with her I will cherish for the rest of my life," Eidson said. "Katie was always known for her bubbly personality. She was the kind of person who always stood by you through every obstacle."

Mack said Kimmel's death has taught her some life lessons.

"Life is really short and you need

to cherish every moment on this Earth," Mack said. "We need to do things that make us happy and not do things that make other people sad. If there is a time for change, that time is now—if not for you, then do it for her."

"Katie will be missed, but she will always live in our hearts," Mack added.

Stephanie Payne, a school volleyball coach and director of Club Beyond talked about her time with Katie by saying, "I knew whatever Katie attempted in life, she would be extraordinary and never do it halfway."

Payne added that many people may be feeling guilt about Kimmel's death, thinking if they'd done something differently it wouldn't have happened.

"That guilt can seep in and become a part of us and we are not even aware of it," she said. "I want you to know that Katie wouldn't want that. She'd want us to live life with passion and full of vibrancy—that is what she would want because that is the life she lived."

After Rowland's presentation of Kimmel's diploma, attendees went behind the school where seniors released blue and gold balloons they had written messages to Katie on.



(Above) During a June 1 memorial ceremony, attendees watch a slide show entitled "Memories of Katie." The presentation was created by friends of Katherine Kimmel, an Ansbach senior who died in an automobile accident May 28. (At left) After the ceremony, friends released balloons with messages to Katie.

Family, friends turn out for CAB deployment ceremony

by Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE
12th CAB Public Affairs Office

The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade marked its upcoming deployment to Iraq with a ceremony at Katterbach Army Airfield May 24.

About 600 Soldiers from the 12th CAB participated in the ceremony while hundreds of family members and friends showed up to honor members of the unit.

"I would like to say a special thank you to all the Soldiers, Families and friends (here today) for everything that you do," said Col. Timothy J. Edens, 12th CAB commander. "Each of you (is truly) a valued member of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade."

During the ceremony, the colors for each company and battalion in the 12th, as well as the brigade flag, were carefully rolled and then cased in their green canvas covers.

The colors will remain cased until the brigade reaches its area of operations in Iraq.

Six veterans of the renowned World War II "Band of Brothers" and a few of their family members, as well as three of the actors from the television series were also in attendance.

The "Band of Brothers" members in attendance were Bill Guarnere, Buck Compton, Babe Heffron, Rod Bain, Frank Perconte and Don Malarkey.

The three actors from the television series that accompanied them were Michael Cudlitz (Bull Randleman), Jimmy Maddio (Frank Perconte) and Richard Speight (Skip Muck).

While in Ansbach, the vets compared the war they fought a half a century ago with the war America is fighting today.

"The atmosphere of the country was very different," Compton said. "There was nobody that talked about not joining the military—only which service to join."

Despite the fame Easy Company earned, the "Brothers" say they are not special.

"We don't labor under any delusions that we're better than anyone else that was there,"

Compton said. "It could have been any company or any unit there that day."

"There are fewer people like you this day and age," he told the Soldiers of the 12th. "You guys are our heroes."

CAB Soldiers have been preparing and training for their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for some time now.

Last summer more than 600 Soldiers and Families moved from other communities in Germany to help form the CAB's current unit structure of more than 3,800 personnel serving at units in Germany, Belgium, and Italy.

The unit is no stranger to deployment. In August, 1990, the brigade—then the 12th Aviation Brigade—deployed with U.S. Army Europe's VII Corps in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

During the brief four-day coalition ground offensive, the brigade provided essential combat supplies and support as its pilots flew nearly 400 flight hours and transported more than 390 tons of cargo.

The brigade returned to Iraq with V Corps in 2003, and later deployed to Afghanistan in 2005 with U.S. Army Europe's Southern European Task Force to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the 12th's last deployment, its aircrews flew more than 52,000 hours, transported 105,000 personnel, and moved more than 25 million pounds of cargo.

While in Afghanistan the brigade also took on a second major mission, aiding Pakistan in conducting humanitarian relief efforts in the wake of a devastating earthquake in the region.

In August 2006 the 12th Aviation Brigade became the 12th CAB.

Regardless of the location or the mission, Edens said, the goal of the brigade has always been to return every member home safely to his family.

"Thank you for choosing to serve your nation as a Soldier. I am truly proud to stand with you and wear the cloth of our nation."

12th CAB equipment begins rail, sea journey to Iraq

Story and photo by RONALD H. TOLAND
Bavarian News

Six days after the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade held a deployment ceremony to honor its 2,400 Soldiers deploying to Iraq this summer, the unit began loading up the equipment it will need to carry out its mission there.

The unit began rail load operations May 30 with 41 rail cars, two crews of five Soldiers each, a crew of German rail employees and a rail master, members of the 21st Theater Support Command, crane contractors, and rail head safety officers all teamed up to get the unit's equipment loaded up.

"The plan is to load up all of 412th Aviation Support Battalion and 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Headquarter Company equipment May 30 and June 1," said Sgt. 1st Class William Magruder, 12th CAB, of the first two days. The CAB also conducted load operations June 11 and June 13 for other units.

Magruder, noncommissioned officer in charge of the operation, conducted and coordinated the railhead uploading operation procedure because he has experience and training with major deployments and rail heading.

He said the containers the equipment is put into—known as MILVANS—carry everything from Soldier's personal gear, office equipment, paperwork, tools, helicopter parts, and more.

"Everything is in there that we need to conduct our operations downrange," he said.

And the transition from working in aviation to loading railcars went smoothly, Magruder said.

"The training is extremely simple," he said. "The MILVANS are packed on the ground, placed on trucks, transported to the railhead, and then placed on the train by cranes. No prior training needed—only the standard safety briefs, helmets, and eye protection (glasses) in case of flying debris."

Equipment and vehicles were transported via train to a river port, were inspected via the load list for correct loading, packing, and weight

allocations prior to departure, then loaded and shipped to the designated deployment location.

Magruder explains that proper timing and coordination are important for railhead operations involving deployments.

"(The ship) will sail with or without our stuff," he said, adding that the German rail officials allow for about a four-hour time cushion on either side of the rail for any unexpected delays.

Magruder said the arrival of the MILVANS takes about three weeks and it will all be ready for the Soldiers to retrieve upon their arrival.



A crane loads 12th CAB equipment onto rail cars at the Katterbach railhead May 30 in preparation for this summer's deployment.

New books on deployment can help fill void

by AMY L. BUGALA
Bavarian News

The Bamberg Community Library has approximately 50 new book titles dealing with deployment for children and youth.

The new titles can help adults as well as young children cope with the void and emptiness they may experience when a family member is deployed.

New titles include books like “Daddy, you are my Hero,” “My Daddy is a Soldier,” “Dear Soldier: Heartfelt letters from America’s Children,” “War? I’m scared.”

“Reading deployment-related books to children who have to cope with the absence of a deployed family member is actually fostering the bond and filling the void between child and parent,” said Karen Lazzeri,

community library director. In the book “Ned and the General: A Lesson About Deployment,” by Ron Madison, parents and children can read about the experiences and hardships of Ned and his friends. Written in simple rhyme, each character has a unique way of dealing with their feelings of loss. Military mom and author Rachel Robertson provides youths and teens with a guide for creating a journal to express their own thoughts and feelings about their parent being away in the book “Deployment Journal for Kids.” “Mommy Don’t Go”, by Elizabeth Crary is part of a series of problem solving books that encourage children to think for themselves and help them become more aware of their own feelings. The listener/reader make decisions

for a character named “Matthew”, and discover how each choice leads to a different outcome. Lazzeri emphasizes the important role books take to help children relate to and communicate their feelings when a parent is away. “With our families struggling with present day issues, these books can definitely offer a great deal of peace and relief,” she said, and encourages families with children of any age to check out the new selection. The new books are located at the deployment/reintegration family reading area at the Bamberg community library, Bldg. 7047. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and closed on Fridays. Call CIV 0951-300-1740 for more information.



A young child listens to a story about a boy named Jack in the book “Daddy’s in Iraq, But I Want Him Back!”

Photo by James Fredrick

BRIEFS

Attend garrison command change on June 27

Lt Col. Mark Gatto, U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg commander, bids farewell to Warner Barracks and relinquishes command to Lt. Col. Gary A. Rosenberg at Summerall Field on June 27 at 10 a.m. The entire community is invited to attend the ceremony.

Health clinic hails new commander June 11

U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg welcomes Maj. Pablito R. Gahol as the new commander of the U.S. Army Health Clinic, Bamberg, replacing Lt. Col. James Stein during a change of command ceremony held on June 11. Gahol’s prior duty assignment was Head Nurse of the intensive care unit, 212th Combat Support Hospital and head nurse, Med-Surg, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. Outgoing commander, Stein and family proceed to Atlanta, Ga. where he will serve as the new Preventive Medicine Officer, Forces Command.

Attend military police command change

Lt Col. Hillary Baxter, commander, 1002d MP Battalion (CID) bids farewell to Bamberg and relinquishes command to Lt. Col. Michael R. Walker at Summerall Field tomorrow at 10 a.m. Baxter proceeds to the Directorate of Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Va. Incoming commander, Walker relocates to Bamberg after serving as Deputy Commander, 202nd Military Police Group, (CID), Seckenheim, Germany.

Register for Operation Walk 4 Freedom

Get ready to walk, run, bike or rollerblade your way to Afghanistan / Iraq and back! Registration and assessments for Operation Walk 4 Freedom will be held at the Freedom Fitness Facility today from noon to 3 p.m. and from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to noon. All participants who register for the program will receive a free pedometer, log book, and assistance with goal setting, fitness and exercise plans. For more information contact the Bamberg Health promotion coordinator at DSN 469-7043 or log on to www.bamberg.army.mil and download a contract of participation and informational brochure.

Red Cross babysitters training offered Saturday

The Bamberg station Red Cross is offering a babysitter’s training course for youth ages 11-17. The two-day course will be held on Saturday and Sunday in the ACS classroom from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Course fee is \$45 and includes all materials plus infant and child CPR. Course is limited to eight students. Call to sign-up at DSN 469-1760.

Catholic religious education coordinator needed

The Bamberg Community Chapel is looking for a Catholic Religious Education Coordinator to fill a 1 year non-personal services contract valued between \$6,640 - \$8,300. The contract begins on July 1. Contact the Bamberg Regional Contracting Office for a copy of the solicitation, packet number W912PG-07-T-0158 which will be used for submission. Completed packets/offers will be accepted until Friday. For more information contact Bamberg RCO at DSN 469-9383 or <http://www.usacce.army.mil/frc/default.htm> or AJ Douglas at the Chapel at DSN 469-8879

Additional briefs are listed in the Bamberg section of What’s Happening, Page 13.

Bandits take end of season tournament

by AMY L. BUGALA
Bavarian News

The Bamberg Youth Sports Bantam Girls Softball team (ages 10-12), “The Bandits,” won the end of season round robin tournament at USAG Bamberg June 2. Competing against Schweinfurt and Ansbach, the Bandits slid to an 11-10 victory over Schweinfurt with a winning run made by third baseman Tajai McCollum during the final game. “We were pumped up for this game after our win against Ansbach and were hoping to come away with another win.” said Coach Janine Smith. The Schweinfurt and Bamberg teams came out strong offering up only a few runs during the first

three innings. “Both teams displayed solid hitting, pitching and fielding” Smith added. Bamberg led 6-3 at the bottom of the third. Bandit’s second baseman Rachael Smith saw plenty of infield action as well as pitcher, Emma Davis, who had quite the golden glove stopping any returns off the bat. After six innings, the game was tied 10-10. The seventh inning started with Bamberg in the field. Davis held the Schweinfurt team to a no hit inning putting Bamberg in position to score. After the lead batter was thrown out at first, McCollum singled, stole second and advanced to third after catcher Ariana Wilson hit an infield grounder. Schweinfurt overthrew to second after first baseman Mikeala Robert’s line drive, catching McCollum in a rundown between third and home plate. McCollum faked, rushed the plate and slid in for the win. Schweinfurt finished second in the tournament followed by Ansbach.



Photo by Tammy Samuelson

Members of the 2007 Bamberg Youth Sports Bantam Girls Softball team “The Bandits” after their end of season round robin tournament win June 2. From left: Jessica Schultze, Emilee Mangold, Bethany Pitts, Sarah Cruz, Emma Davis, Mikeala Roberts, Arianna Wilson. Kneeling: Kristin Feezor, Caitlin Johnson, Selena Newton, Rachael Smith, Tajai McCollum.

Bamberg Earth Day a hands-on experience

by NICOLE KARSCH-MEIBOM
Bavarian News

“If we take care of Mother Earth, she takes care of us”, explained Lt. Col. Mark Gatto, U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg commander to the young audience during the tenth annual Bamberg Earth Day tree planting ceremony May 23 at Engineer Lake, Warner Barracks. Elementary school students watched as the garrison commander, together with teachers and students planted a ginkgo tree, but most were eager to see and do all the other activities around the lake. “We look forward to this

day all year long”, says BES teacher Karen Petersen (English as a foreign language). Every year the Bamberg Elementary School celebrates a day of environmental awareness with outdoor activities, learning games and the planting of a tree. With the support of the USAG Bamberg Directorate of Public Works, the community has created areas around Engineer Lake with static environmental displays such as; a spiral water pump, a nature trail, a path of senses and a picnic area. Efforts were joined by the participation of local German agencies, such as the Bamberg Environmental Office, the Bamberg Water Authorities, and a regional initiative that cares for the Frankonian rivers (Flussparadies Franken e.V.). “We appreciate the celebration of Earth Day here at the garrison,

because children are mediators and help to spread the environmental concern”, says Karin Koeberlein from the Environmental Office. While making paper hats and boats, she tells the children about the importance of recycling paper. Indeed, first time visitors are ready to learn. “I really like this day”, says 8-year-old Justin Huff and adds, “I have learned that we must not waste paper or water.” BES teacher Mona Haggerty has participated in Earth Day many times and says, “Every year this event gets bigger and better. New things are added, like the rock garden or the animals! It really is one of the best field trips we do!” This year, students were given the opportunity to pet and feed several animals. The furry four-legged friends

received a lot of attention from the young environmentalists. “It fits perfectly”, says Kindergarten teacher Becky Walsch, “Before we came to the lake, we learned about living and dead things, plants and animals in the class room. And now, we go on a scavenger hunt here about it all.” The Bamberg Elementary School students shared their Earth Day experiences with two German classes from Oberschwarzach School this year. The Oberschwarzach school recently received the highest German award for environmental awareness and has in return, invited the Bamberg students to their Earth Day celebration in the fall.

“German kids, who have never interacted with Americans, come to meet us, and vice versa. This builds a great friendship”, says Dr. Greenwald-Schmitt, Gifted Education Specialist. Ten years ago, Greenwald-Schmitt initiated the Bamberg Earth Day celebration because of her love for nature. “My goal is to create an awareness of the beauty and the importance of nature, and the need to take care of it”, she explains. With the support of DPW, Greenwald-Schmitt’s initiative provides a hands-on experience for children and parents to better connect with nature. “I remember a little boy at Earth Day once who was jumping with joy shouting, ‘I got to see the sheeps!’, because he had never seen one before. So I want to do this again every year, for the kids.” Earth Day was first celebrated in the United States on April 22, 1970 and has evolved into a worldwide campaign for increasing environmental awareness.



German and American elementary school students spend time feeding their new four-legged friends during the Bamberg Earth Day event at Engineer Lake, Warner Barracks.

Photo by James Fredrick

Wuerzburg student earns Eagle Scout rank

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

It wasn't too long ago that Boy Scout Troop 62 in Wuerzburg wasn't even sure they'd be around for another year.

Now, with a new Scoutmaster in tow, Troop 62 is not only hanging on, but it is going strong, promoting several scouts through the ranks June 2 at the Leighton Chapel.

For one scout in particular, the promotion ceremony meant much more than a new pin on his sash. Christian Wiedemer earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor a Boy Scout can attain, and Sunday's Court of Honor ceremony was his.

"Only about 2 percent of all the boys who enter scouting achieve the Eagle Scout rank," explained James Larsen, who, along with new Scoutmaster Jonathan McDonald, is responsible for the continuing Wuerzburg scout presence.

Wiedemer is unique even among those few Eagles. At 15, he is

considerably younger than most Eagle candidates. Additionally, Wiedemer is a Canadian citizen and was granted special permission by the Boy Scouts of America to join.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, Wiedemer had to progress through the scouting ranks, earning merit badges demonstrating everything from his ability to skate to his knowledge of and dedication to world conservation. But Eagle Scouting is about more than just earning badges.

To become an Eagle Scout, candidates must earn at least 21 badges (Wiedemer has 27), demonstrate leadership within the troop and community, and they must plan and complete a community service project.

Wiedemer's project involved repairing and refurbishing two rooms at his German school. After weeks of planning and coordination, Wiedemer led his troop through two days of repairing, painting, and renovations.

Once complete, candidates must submit a project report, go before a review board, and in general

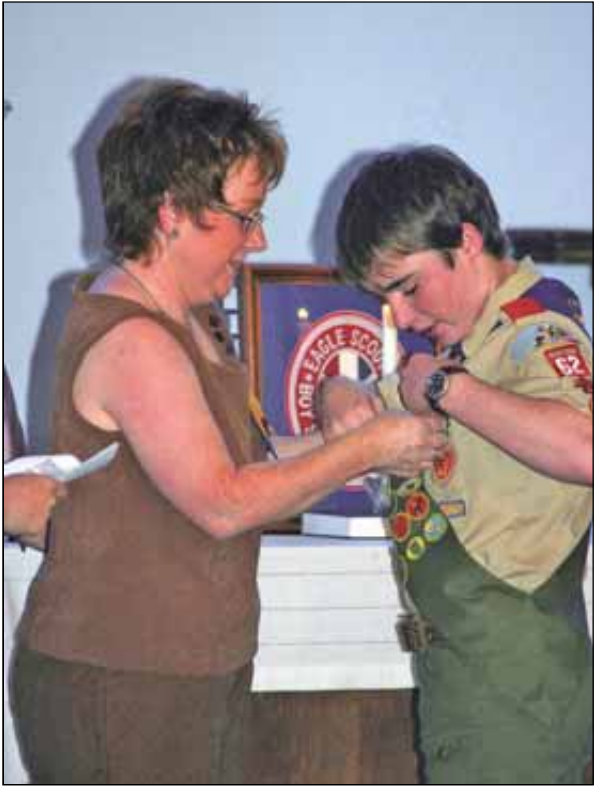
demonstrate superior dedication, faith, and fortitude to be considered worthy of the Eagle.

"It is impossible for a boy to achieve this rank alone," Wiedemer said, thanking his friends and Troop members for their hard work and dedication. More importantly, Wiedemer wanted to thank his family "for loving and supporting me, and for paying for all the camp-outs."

Eagle Scouts, although they have reached the pinnacle of the Boy Scout rank progression, are not through being Scouts. Eagles serve as leaders within the troop, guiding other scouts, and outside of the troop, often becoming community leaders as they grow out of Scouting and into the adult world.

Both the current and former secretaries of defense, several former presidents, and famed director Steven Spielberg can name the Eagle among their honors.

For Wiedemer, engineering is the key to his educational future, but for now, he's a proud Eagle, and determined to serve well.



Patricia Wiedemer does the honor of pinning her son, Christian, with the rank of Eagle Scout during the June 10 Court of Honor.

299th FSB honors dedicated volunteers

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

299th Forward Support Battalion gathered May 16 on Conn Barracks to celebrate their dedicated volunteers.

"It's not how much time that you put in. It's the fact that you're helping," said Lt. Col. Keith Sledd of 299th FSB, who was home from Iraq on R&R.

That evening, many family members and Soldiers were awarded certificates for hundreds of hours volunteered. Bronze, silver, and gold standings represented the number of hours given.

Tom Casarez, a silver recipient with 255 hours in the past year, said he likes volunteering because he's in school and can't be pinned down by the hours of an official job.

"It helps our unit out and gives me a chance to do something," Casarez added.

He often volunteers with his 11-year-old daughter, Maya. This past December, Casarez dressed up as Santa for pictures at the PX and Maya was his sidekick elf.

The team also helps out with

decorating for battalion events.

"If people didn't volunteer, a lot of things wouldn't get done," said Maya who earned a gold youth award for 198 volunteer hours.

Frank Brenneman, a retired Navy sailor, was another of the many recognized. He received a gold award for 791 hours of service.

As the battalion photographer, he takes many pictures at unit events.

Brenneman also spent more than a year devoted to being a Family Readiness Group leader.

"I just like seeing the smiles that people give when you help out. And it saves the government a lot of money," he said.

Brenneman's wife, Spc. Samantha Brenneman of 299th FSB, gave 757 hours and also received a gold award at the ceremony.

Her hours are composed of writing articles for the FRG newsletter, setting up potlucks, helping out in the local German community, and much more.

"It helps the army a lot by not using as much Soldier power and resources," said Samantha. "And it gets the community involved."

Schweinfurt Red Cross worker serves downrange with Soldiers

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Cheryl Dean, Schweinfurt Red Cross station manager, traveled downrange last October to Camp Liberty, Iraq, as part of the mobile deployable staff of the American Red Cross.

"This was my third deployment. I was excited about going in with a good team. (On a previous deployment,) I never made it to Baghdad (before), so just being able to be there was an accomplishment and a personal milestone of mine," said Dean.

Her job was the same in Baghdad as in Schweinfurt—to get emergency messages from all over the world to the command as quickly as possible.

But the communication systems were a little different in Iraq. Sometimes the telephone lines or internet were down, and Dean would have to jump into her vehicle and drive to battalion headquarters to deliver the urgent messages.

Dean kept busy delivering messages seven days a week. On her down time, she read a lot of books and hung out with Schweinfurt Soldiers.

"They're not happy because they're not home, but I also think they know that they are doing an excellent job and that's where they need to be."

It was a coincidence that Dean was deployed to the same base as Schweinfurt Soldiers. The American Red Cross doesn't coordinate things like that, she said, it just happened to work out that way.

"I was very grateful that my Soldiers were there with me and that I was there with them. I think that was the best thing, because I was able to spend some time with them," Dean said.

On Christmas Day, the American

Red Cross National Headquarters sent each of Dean's teammates about 30 individually wrapped gifts to open containing items such as Q-tips or cotton balls. It provided the office with much entertainment.

In March, Dean finished her assignment at Camp Liberty, packed up and returned to Schweinfurt. The Soldiers told her to send their love home and to let Family members know that they are greatly missed.

"The saddest thing was leaving our Soldiers behind. They all wanted to come home with me. If I could have put them in my suitcase I would have," Dean said.



A 299th FSB Soldier helped Dean gather 92 care packages from the post office when she arrived at Camp Liberty, Iraq, last October.

Photo by Capt. Simmons, HHC 1-7

MWR hosts all-day street party for children in housing area

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Crowds packed Askren Manor in Schweinfurt June 2 for an all-day Street Party sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division.

Children were treated to a variety of inflatable fun, ranging from one of the largest inflatable slides in Europe to a giant purple dinosaur, in whose mouth children playfully scrambled.

Older, more daring children took a turn at bungee jumping, bouncing, and turning flips on four large trampolines, tethered to stretchy cords and yelling "Hey mom, look at me!"

The Street Festival, the first of four planned through this summer, was an excellent opportunity for community members to get out of their homes and have a good time without really having to travel.

"We figured that by having it in the housing area, more people would have the opportunity to come," said Garland Travis, MWR Entertainment director.

"They don't have to worry about packing up the kids in the car; they can just walk over," said Travis.

The party kicked off at noon, and before long, hundreds of children were getting their faces painted, trying their

hands at a tennis ball-toss, and enjoying the mild weather.

Although rain threatened for most of the day, the crowd never thinned. Exact numbers were hard to estimate, given that the event was free, but organizers guessed that there were consistently 300 or more people present at any one time during the eight-hour event.

"Overall between 800 and 1,000 people attended. Everyone seems to be having a good time. We got to try it all out, and it is really fun," said Silvia Joiner, USAG Schweinfurt recreation specialist with MWR.

To cap off the night, rock variety band Donny Vox took the stage from 6 to 8 p.m.

"We decided to have everything done by 8 p.m. because we're in the housing area, and people want to start putting children in bed," Travis said.

The next Street Festival will be held July 21, and will feature Latin music. More festivals are planned for August and September as well.

Children climb into the jaws of danger—or at least into the jaws of fun—as part of the Askren Manor Street Festival June 2.



Honoring a ‘Blue Spader’

Story and photo by
MARK HEETER
Bavarian News

The 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and the Schweinfurt community gathered at the Ledward Chapel Friday to honor Spc. Nicholas Scott Hartge, 20, who died May 14 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using grenades and an improvised explosive device.

Hartge, a member of the 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, grew up in Rome City, Ind., and enlisted in the Army just after high school graduation in 2005.

“It took him no time to distinguish himself as a hard worker and a good Soldier,” said Sgt. Shawn Ladue, who served in Iraq with Hartge for four months before being wounded and returning to Schweinfurt.

Hartge began his stint with the Blue Spaders as a driver and radio/telephone operator, which, although troubled Hartge, did not stop him from performing well, Ladue said.

“He came here to be an infantryman, not a radio jockey,” Ladue said. Still, “he jumped in feet first and made it his personal mission to have the best track in the

company.”

He originally wanted to attend the United States Military Academy and, though unsuccessful on his first attempt, quietly took the placement test for the academy’s preparatory school while home on rest and recuperation leave earlier this year.

“I gladly wrote a letter on his behalf,” said Lt. Col. Schacht, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment commander, in remarks relayed at the memorial ceremony by Capt. Jacob White.

Hartge chose not to complete the application, knowing that, had he been accepted, he would have to leave his fellow Blue Spaders in July.

“Almost everything about him was unique,” said Capt. Cecil Strickland at the May 22 memorial service in Baghdad.

“Nick was a funny, kind and warm-hearted man,” Schacht said, noting that he was extremely proud to be an infantryman and member of the “Sallywags” platoon.

“The Army doesn’t give you values. It develops values you have from your parents,” Strickland recalled Hartge having told him once in a conversation.

Hartge is survived by his father, Scott, mother and stepfather, Lisa and Dave Abbott, sister, Elise, and stepbrother, 1st Lt. Ryan Abbott.



An honor guard salutes their fallen comrade during “Taps” at the end of the memorial ceremony for Spc. Nicholas Hartge.

Wuerzburg High student named IMCOM-E YOY

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Leader. Listener. Teacher. Helper. Role model. Friend.

Would you use these words to describe the teenagers that you know?

If you know Lindsey Cole, you just might. The Wuerzburg High School graduating senior demonstrates all these traits and more and, as a result, has been chosen as this year’s IMCOM Europe Youth of the Year.

Cole, as with all other applicants, had to complete a rigorous Boys and Girls Club of America application to be considered in the YOY selection process.



This nomination packet included nine essays, school transcript and awards, a background check, volunteer hours, and more.

At the garrison level, a panel of seven judges reviewed the nomination packets, and each nominee demonstrated their public speaking skills to receive a final score.

Being selected as IMCOM Europe’s YOY is no small accomplishment. Cole competed against all the Army garrisons in Europe to gain her title, and now she will move onto the Regional competition for a chance at a \$10,000 college scholarship.

The five Regional winners will travel to Washington, D.C., in September to compete for the title of BGCA’s National YOY.

The National YOY receives an additional \$15,000 college scholarship and is installed by the President in the Oval Office.

Cole’s leadership and service

which won her the IMCOM Europe title has been displayed in numerous community activities including coordinating teen involvement with an orphanage gift drive, coaching youth sports, teaching Sunday school classes at the chapel, and helping out at the Teen Center.

She was named the European Teen Panel Representative for Schweinfurt in 2005, and last November she participated on the Army Family Action Plan team in search of solutions to local issues. In the same month, she was selected to serve on the 4-H technology team at the IMA-E Torch Club Summit.

Moving on to the final rounds of the YOY competition is only one of Cole’s goals. After graduating, she hopes to go to college to become a teacher.

“It’s great to see kids learning something that you taught them... (and) to know that you have influence on them,” Cole said.

Schweinfurt-based issue move up the chain in AFAP process

By **MARK HEETER**
Bavarian News

For those who still aren’t believers in the Army Family Action Plan process, Heather Everett has a message.

“It really does effect change, and it’s changes you can see,” said Everett, who joined fellow Army Community Service employee Cindy Gonzales as the USAG Schweinfurt delegates at the IMCOM-Europe AFAP conference in Heidelberg April 30-May 4.

Fifty-eight delegates from throughout Europe selected three issues to submit to the USAREUR Commander’s steering committee, and one of those issues – Veterans’ Administration benefits training – was born at the Schweinfurt AFAP conference in February.

“When Soldiers get out of the military, whether retiring or

separating, they’re not getting that training sometimes,” Gonzales said. “And many of those benefits have time limits.”

The small group that worked on that issue at the conference came up with two recommendations for a solution, according to Gonzales.

First, the VA training should be standardized at the Department of the Army level, and second, Soldiers should be required to receive that training each time they make a permanent change of station.

“They look to their commander and their first sergeant to give them direction,” and more frequent training would keep Soldiers up-to-date on benefit changes.

While some groups at the IMCOM-E conference were able to swiftly address issues that were tailored to specific garrisons, others looked for solutions to every issue.

“We had some issues that were hot

topics in communities, but it was important enough for some garrison commander to send it to us,” Everett said.

“We looked for the benefit to the whole military,” Gonzales said, adding that she garnered a new appreciation for the difficulty associated with solving some of the issues.

“What I thought was an easy solution turned out to be a hard solution. There’s a lot more involved than just saying, ‘the military should get our kids drivers’ licenses,’” she said, citing one example of an issue that crosses several policy layers.

“I learned a lot,” she said.

Everett suggested that customers can log on to www.myarmylifetoo.com to track issues’ progress.

“And they can submit issues anytime, all year round,” Everett said.

Marrow drive gives community chance to be lifesavers

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

One hundred and twenty members of the Schweinfurt community are life-savers—or are at least willing to be.

Representatives from the C.W. Bill Young/DoD Marrow Donor Program were on hand at the street festival June 2 to talk to community members about registering as bone marrow donors, but the turnout surpassed all expectations.

“Often, people don’t want to talk to me about donating until it affects them personally,” said Stefanie Robinson, European coordinator with the donor program.

Recently, military dependents, children, in Wiesbaden and Stuttgart were diagnosed with leukemia.

Capt. Eric Fowler, USAG Schweinfurt Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, helped organize the drive, which was sponsored by the HHC Family Readiness Group, the Red Cross, and the Health Clinic. The local Army Community Service Center donated gift certificates for all registering donors as well.

“So many of us in the military community can no longer donate blood due to deployments or living situations. I was looking for something else we could do to help, and Cheryl Dean (Red Cross station manager) suggested bone marrow,” Fowler said.

Getting donors to register can be difficult,

given the fact that donating has a reputation for being painful.

“But registration is painless, just a cheek swab,” Robinson quickly pointed out.

Swabs are sent to a Navy laboratory, where they are tissue-typed and entered into a nationwide database for donors. Matches are highly specific, and so difficult to come by that only by having such a large pool of possibilities can anyone have a chance at finding a compatible donor.

Many of Saturday’s donors were parents with young children. Parents are not a close enough type match to be able to donate for their children, but they can help others.

“I look at my daughter, and she’s not diagnosed with anything, but I think of all the others that are. That’s why I do this,” Fowler said, watching his wife, Capt. Teresa Fowler, rock newborn Savannah.

In order to donate in Europe, volunteers must register as part of a drive.

Fowler and Robinson hope to hold another one in Schweinfurt in August.

To find out more about marrow donation, or to locate drives around the world, log on to www.dodmarrow.com.

Capt. Eric Fowler swabs his cheek as part of the bone marrow donor registration process.



TIME of CHANGE



Photo by Bilyana Atova

Lt. Col. Telita Crosland accepted command of the Grafenwoehr Health Clinic from Maj. Timothy J. Caffrey during a June 6 change of command ceremony at the clinic. Crosland is coming arriving from Ft. Lewis, Wash., and Caffrey will attend the Army Baylor program in health care administration at Fort Sam, Houston, Texas.



Photo by Katie Cowart

Lt. Col. Alfonso Alarcon accepted command of the Vilseck Health Clinic from Lt. Col. George Kyle during a June 6 ceremony at the clinic. Alarcon arrived from Ft. Polk, La., and Kyle is PCSing to Fort Meade, Md.

JROTC cadets to represent Vilseck at leadership symposium



Four cadets from the Vilseck High School JROTC program have earned a spot at the George C. Marshall Leadership Symposium that will be held Oct. 11-13 in Virginia. Of the 34 JROTC teams that will attend the symposium, only one is from the Department of Defense.

Team members and two alternates were chosen to be on the team based on academic standing, motivation, and the potential to represent VHS well, according to JROTC Instrurctor (Ret.) Maj. Michael Farley. The Vilseck team won two rounds of online competition to garner their place at the symposium.

Team members are: Steven Newbauer, who will attend as a cadet Sergeant major and a senior; Daniel Lonowski, attending as a cadet staff sergeant and senior; John Lee, serving as an alternate, cadet master sergeant, and sophomore; Nolan Stark, attending as a cadet master sergeant and senior; Dominique Smith, who will serve as an alternate, a cadet master sergeant, and sophomore; and Tim Ray, attending as a cadet command sergeant major and a senior.

Photo by Katie Cowart

Soldiers become citizens during naturalization ceremony

Story and photo by KATIE COWART
Assistant Editor

Bavaria’s first naturalization ceremony took place May 29 when 15 U.S. Soldiers took the Oath of Allegiance and became U.S. citizens. The ceremony was held at the U.S Consulate General in Munich.

Consul General Eric Nelson presided over and spoke during the ceremony.

“Every year we issue thousands of passports and visas for Americans, but today is the first we can hold a naturalization ceremony,” Nelson said.

The 15 new American citizens came from all over the world. Countries represented included the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, the People’s Republic of China, the Philippines, and the republics of Trinidad and Tobago.

Spc. Kathy Diaz Rullamas, stationed at Baumholder and originally from the Philippines, said she decided to become an American citizen after living in the U.S. for 15 years and “for the freedom to do what I wanted to do.”

“When my brother (who is currently in Iraq) joined the military, he showed me what being a patriot was about,” Rullamas said.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Deputy Director Jonathan Scharfen also spoke to the new citizens during the ceremony, commending them for participating in “something that is a uniquely American experience.”

“We are founded on immigration,” Scharfen said. “Not only have you chosen to start a new life in a new country, you’ve gone a step further

to serve that country in the Armed Forces.”

Nelson agreed with Sharfen’s statement. “Your choice makes America a stronger nation,” he said.

Spc. Victor Garcia Chavez, who is currently serving in Freeburg, Germany, and originally from Mexico, said he first new he wanted to become an American citizen while he was serving downrange. “I get all the benefits and advantages now,” he said. “I’ve been serving, and now this is *my* country. I want to give my family a better life, and where else but America?”

The ceremony began with the posting of the colors by the Marine Corps detachment in Munich and was followed by the remarks made by Nelson and Sharfen.

The candidates for naturalization were then introduced to the audience, and they remained standing to take the Oath of Allegiance. They were then presented with certificates saying that they are official citizens of the United States.

The new citizens were also given a packet containing all the information they would need to obtain a U.S. passport for themselves and dependents as well as information on the American voting process.

Rullamas recalled that she had been working on the paperwork to become a U.S. citizen for over a year. She and a friend worked on the paperwork together, helping each other out and corresponding with the U.S. Consulate General in Munich while downrange.

“I’m happy and excited,” Rullamas said. “I just wish my parents were here for this. I’ve been here for a while, and I’m fighting for this

country. I’m proud of it.”

According to Nelson, approximately 40,000 members of the military are non-Americans, and 20 percent of the Medal of Honor recipients have been immigrants. Before Oct. 1, 2004, military service members could only naturalize while physically within the United States. That policy changed when President George W. Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act in November 2003, which now allows military members to be sworn in as U.S. citizens while stationed overseas.

Since the beginning of the program in 2004, over 3,600 Soldiers, airmen, sailors, and Marines have been naturalized in overseas ceremonies.



Bavaria’s first naturalization ceremony took place in Munich May 29.

Mold

Continued From Page 1

repairs will include scraping off the mold, taking down wallpaper, repainting areas with mold-repellent paint, repairing leaks, replacing all of the roof windows, and cleaning and retiling several of the bathrooms.

During the inspection, Hays said several minor non-mold/moisture related issues were identified and will also be repaired. Those included repairs to toilets, doorbells, windows and roofs.

Garrison Grafenwoehr Housing Chief Bob Arbios said two Kaltenbrunn families have been moved as a result of the mold in their homes, and two more families have received approval to move.

Jeanie Anderson, whose family has been approved to move to new quarters in mid-July is pleased with the garrison response.

“Housing has done as much as they possibly can,” said Anderson. “We’re happy with the end result.”

A June 7 letter signed by Arbios has been distributed to Kaltenbrunn residents and encourages family members to call or e-mail the Vilseck Housing Office to schedule the repairs. The letter states that the initial work will take at least part of one day.

However, in most cases, workers will need to return additional days to allow for proper treatment and drying and to enable families to always have access to at least one working bathroom. Residents will be able to remain in their homes throughout the process as workers will seal off impacted areas, read the letter.

Stay fit the German way: Bike, take long walks, enjoy social life

by MARTINA BIAS
Special to the Bavarian News

Did you make any New Years resolutions? Is one of them to stay in better shape then last year? Are you having a hard time putting this resolution into practice? How about trying to stay fit the German way?

You are probably wondering what I mean by that, but I am sure you have noticed that many Germans stay more physically active then most Americans. The older generation of Germans is often in surprisingly good shape.

For example, I have a great-aunt who is in her 80's, yet she still regularly gets on her bike to visit my mother who lives several miles away. My grandmother worked in the kitchen of our family-owned restaurant well into her 70's.

I still remember my husband's surprise when he offered to help her with the lifting of some of the heavy pots. The Army keeps him in good physical shape, but my grandmother was quite strong enough. My grandfather worked behind the bar of our Gasthaus until he was in his 80's as well.

So what is the secret of this surprising fitness? It is often based on a person's attitude, the lifestyle they are accustomed to, and is also an integral part of German social life.

My grandparents believed that time sitting around doing nothing was time wasted. There was always something they could be doing to stay busy. It kept them alert, in shape, and they always felt content and needed.

Living the simple life also meant they did more physical labor. Although many German families now own two cars, the traditional modes of transportation, like walking and biking, are still favored by many. I am sure that the gas price of nearly \$6 per gallon has a lot to do with it as well.

For German youth, bikes are an important transportation tool. It gets them to the bus stop or school, their friend's house, or to the store to run an errand for family.

Even German teenagers rely heavily on bikes since they are not allowed to drive until

they are 18 and some parents are not able or willing to drive them everywhere.

It wasn't very long that the vast majority of Germans only own one family car, which was primarily used by the bread winner.

German homes feature a refrigerator that is roughly half the size of the ones found in American kitchens, therefore making it necessary for housewives to shop for fresh groceries several times a week.

Walking was and is often the most economical and simple way to accomplish this task. It also includes the enjoyable social aspect of affording one the opportunity to chat with friends and neighbors one meets along the way.

Keeping up the outward appearance (cleanliness and neatness is a matter of pride for Germans) of their home also provides ample opportunity for physical activity.

This can range from sweeping the side walk and street in front of one's house to gardening and decorating the sparkling clean windows and doorways.

Older Germans often get together to take leisurely walks. As I was growing up, we had several "regular" groups of retired folks visit our Gasthaus on a weekly basis for coffee and cake.

These included the "Monday ladies group" and the "card players every Wednesday." Rain or shine, they would walk from the nearby town through the forest to our place. They combined social interaction with fresh air and exercise.

Eating lots of rich, delicious foods and pastries, and drinking lots of beer, is not necessarily the healthiest of lifestyles. I agree.

However, keep in mind that most Germans eat their main meal at lunch time, giving their body ample time to use up all those calories during the rest of the day's activities. Dinner often consists of a cold plate or other light fare.

It is also a tradition to take a long walk after a heavy meal, such as a large Sunday lunch or holiday feast.

As for the beer; those calories are precious to German men. My father's favorite saying is:



Biking around town is easier and more efficient than driving in most German cities. Those who stay in shape by walking enjoy the social benefits of exercising with friends.

Courtesy photo

"A man with out a (beer) belly is a cripple!" So, try to incorporate some healthy German traditions into your life and don't be too discouraged if they don't help you to look like a swimsuit model. That is not necessarily forefront in the German mentality. If you look at German advertising and catalogues, you will notice that they are full

of "normal" looking people of all ages, shapes, and sizes, unlike the airbrushed models you may be use to in American publications. So relax and enjoy the tradition, leisurely pace, and healthy lifestyle of your host country. It will do you a world of good!

Chocolate strawberry torte a simple delight just in time for local strawberry season

by MARTINA BIAS
Special to the Bavarian News

Now that strawberry picking season is here, it's easier to make all of those yummy treats with fresh fruit.

Many choose to make preserves out of their pickings to ensure a sweet taste of summer all year long, but I'd like to share with you this dessert for a chocolate strawberry torte.

Next time you come home from an afternoon strawberry picking, whip up this tasty dessert to surprise the family.

Guten Appetit!

Chocolate Strawberry Torte

- ½ cup butter
- 2 cups chocolate graham cracker crumbs (about 26 squares)
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 carton (12 oz) frozen whipped topping, thawed (cool whip)
- 1 cup (8oz) sour cream
- 1 packg. (3.8 oz) instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 pint fresh strawberries, sliced

- Melt ½ cup butter.
- In a bowl, combine the cracker crumbs, melted butter and sugar. Press onto the bottom and 1 ½ inches up the sides of a greased 9-inch springform pan; refrigerate.
- In a mixing bowl, beat the whipped topping, sour cream, and pudding mix until blended. Spread half over crust.
- Arrange strawberries over the top.
- Spread with remaining filling. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours before serving.

Yield: 10 – 12 servings.



A slice of chocolate strawberry torte can be a welcome taste in the middle of summer heat. Visit a local strawberry farm for a fresh pick.

Army chief of staff outlines steps to sharpen transformation focus

Continued From Page 1

- accelerate growth and readiness improvements in the Army
- increase support to Soldiers and Families
- maintain continuity and momentum in modernization
- enhance the reserve components' operational capabilities
- refine the Army's institutional policies and programs to better serve an expeditionary Army at war
- improve the Army's strategic communications

He added, "I was the vice chief of staff of the Army when we began this transformation effort, and so I bought into the basic correctness of the direction of that effort four years ago. "So you're not going to see any sharp right- or left-hand turns in the direction the U.S. Army is headed in its transformation," he said. Casey, who in February completed 32 months as Multi-National Force-Iraq commander, said Army transformation is closely tied to operations and preparing Soldiers for conflict, as the war on terrorism nears the end of its sixth year. "I can tell you that the Soldiers that

I've seen across the Army, a lot of them preparing to go back to Iraq or Afghanistan, understand what's at stake here for the Unites States and for our allies," he said. "I must say, I saw it on the ground in Iraq every day: the young men and women of the coalition, they get it. They understand what they're doing for their countries," said Casey. His advice to Soldiers preparing to deploy, he said, is to pay attention to their training. "At the small unit level, success in Iraq and Afghanistan, much like success in any conflict, is grounded on effective standards and discipline

in the small units," he said. "We are getting better and better in ... replicating the environments that these Soldiers are going into, and if they take full advantage of the training that they'll get here (in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels), I think they'll be quite successful." The chief of staff also addressed the recent increase in deployment tour length. He said there were three primary reasons for instituting 15-month deployments: first, to give the commanders more flexibility; second, to give Soldiers and families predictability; and finally, to ensure

deploying brigades had sufficient training time at home station. Sheila Casey, in a separate set of interviews, said spouses across the Army have told her frequency and duration of deployments is a top concern. She said her central message to the Soldiers, spouses and family members of U.S. Army, Europe, is, "Hang in there. This is tough, I know it's tough. "I know these extended deployments are hard," she said. "Thank you for everything you're doing each and every day."

Grafenwoehr plays host to USAREUR Army 10-Miler

Story and photos by BILYANAATOVA
Staff writer

The IMCOM-E U.S. Forces Army 10-Miler Qualification Run took place at USAG Grafenwoehr June 2, with over 102 runners coming from all over Europe to participate.

Grafenwoehr has hosted the event since 1997.

"It is an annual event for us," said Tony Lee, MWR's Chief of Recreation at Grafenwoehr.

The top female and male active duty Army runners qualify for the Army 10-Miler to be held in Washington D.C., Oct. 7.

The event was open to all active duty, civilians, and Family members 18 years and older, with the youngest participant being 19 and the oldest 58 years old.

The first to cross the finish line was Capt. Jonathan Dreher, from Heidelberg, with a result of 57 minutes 25.73 seconds.

The 26-year-old said that he didn't expect to win.

"This is not my best time," Dreher said. "Since February when I came back from Iraq, I have been running more seriously. I was running a lot before I went to Iraq but I didn't have

too many opportunities there to run."

"I didn't do any special training for the event, I am always running," Sgt. Joseph Campbell said, who was the third fastest runner with a time of 58 minutes 17.95 seconds.

The first female runner was Capt. Stephanie Feagin from Livorno, Italy.

The 26-year-old said she didn't expect to win and that it was the extra strength she got from God that helped her to run the 10-mile distance in 65 minutes 48.61 seconds.

"I did train for the event, running longer runs," Feagin said.

She added that she is very excited about going to Washington D.C. in the fall.

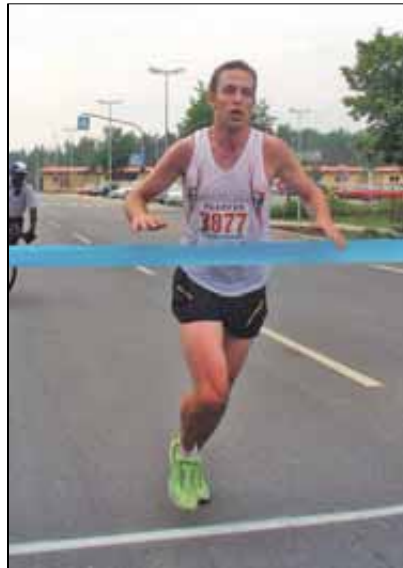
"I really hope I can go to D.C.," she said.

Feagin has already competed twice in the Army 10-Miler in Washington D.C., with her best finish being 13th place.

She explained that she really enjoyed being in Grafenwoehr.

"It is my second time in Germany, it is wonderful here, there are so many nice places to run," Feagin said.

"Three or four times, since we began hosting the race, a woman representing USAREUR has won in D.C.," Lee said.



Capt. Jonathan Dreher of Heidelberg was the overall first place winner.

Awards were presented to the top three finishers in each category, the top three teams, and the overall male and female winners.

"The award is a medal, it looks great, it is like going to the Olympics," Lee said.



Capt. Stephanie Feagin from Livorno, Italy, came in first for the women.

"This event is very important for the community. It is a valuable asset for what we stand together," Lee said.

"The event has a big importance; hopefully, it shows the young people that exercising should be a way of life," said USAG Grafenwoehr Command Sgt. Maj. John M. Burns.

12th Chemical wins volleyball title

By BILYANAATOVA
Staff writer

The Hellfire volleyball team from the 12th Chemical Company, Grafenwoehr won the IMCOM-E unit level volleyball championship in Darmstadt, Germany May 17.

The 12th Chemical Co. defeated the community champion from Wiesbaden three sets to one.

The team earned the right to represent the Grafenwoehr community by winning the USAG Grafenwoehr unit level championship.

"From 12 games for the whole season we had two losses," the Hellfire's coach Staff Sgt. Christopher Massey said about their overall record.

The IMCOM-E volleyball championship was scheduled to be a four-day tournament with 16 teams expected to participate, but it became a one match, winner-takes-all competition.

The reason for that is "because of all the training that is going on," said Tony Lee, Grafenwoehr's MWR Chief of Recreation, adding "but 12th Chem. Co. were really good."

"Due to units deploying it is harder to do anything other than unit missions," said team member 1st Lt. Erica Taisacan.

Even though they were disappointed about only one other team participating, the team was prepared to compete in and do well in a four-day tournament.

"I had great expectations for the team and I had every intention of coming in first," Taisacan said.

Massey was a little less optimistic, when asked if he expected to win the tournament he stated "Honestly no, but we did."

He explained that the team played two practice games against Wiesbaden and "we lost both, one pretty miserably."



The 12th Chemical Company from Grafenwoehr won the IMCOM-Europe volleyball championships in Darmstadt on May 17.

Courtesy photo

Comparing the levels of competition Massey explained that "garrison-level was pretty easy, but the game against Wiesbaden was hard."

Spc. Melissa Medina was named the Most Valuable Player for the championship.

The rest of the team also played

well and contributed to the success of the Hellfire team.

The 12th Chemical Co. moved to Grafenwoehr from Kitzingen, Germany, last year and has become an active part of the community sports program by fielding teams in other sport, including flag football, basketball, and softball.

VHS baseball team finally 'coming together'

By KATIE COWART
Assistant Editor

The Grafenwoehr CYS 16-19 baseball team, more commonly thought of as the Vilseck High School baseball team, ended the season in the May 25-27 IMCOM-Europe high school baseball championship held in Regensburg and Hohenfels.

Though the team got off to a rocky start, only winning one game during regular season play, they got better as the season progressed and

started acting and playing more like a team by the time the end-of-season tournament came around, according to team coach Ken Stark.

"I was really proud of them for coming together and playing like a team," Stark said. "They finally looked like the team they ought to be."

Vilseck came out of the tournament with 2-2 record, scoring wins against Heidelberg 6-4 and Wiesbaden 10-6.

According to junior Nolan Stark, co-captain of the team, the win over Heidelberg was the most surprising since Heidelberg had beaten them twice earlier in the season and were the tournament champs last year.

"It was one of those games where it finally came together and it all worked," Stark said.

Each team played the four other teams in their bracket, then the winners of each bracket went on to face each other for the championship.

The first team Vilseck played in the tournament was Rota Spain, who defeated them 10-1 and went on to win the tournament.

The next two games were against Heidelberg

and Wiesbaden, with the last loss of the tournament against Ramstein II.

"We were out of pitchers by then, and we had kids who had never pitched in their life up there pitching," Stark said.

At the end of the tournament, all of the coaches were given ballots to vote on other teams for MVP awards, which landed two Vilseck players on the all-tournament team.

Nolan Stark, who plays primarily catcher or first base, and co-captain Will Pomares, who is only a sophomore and serves as pitcher, were recognized by all of the coaches as being stand-outs on the Vilseck team during the tournament.

"I thought it (the tournament) was going to be really hard and it was," Nolan said, "but we did better than I thought we would. Our team came together and we played more like a team than we did at the beginning of the year."

Stark attributed the poor season record to one thing: inexperience.

"A few players never played organized baseball prior to this year," Stark said. "We had a lot of inexperienced players."

Nolan agreed, calling the inexperience "scary."

"At the beginning of the season we didn't know who would play what," Nolan said. "By the end, we put everyone where they're best at, and we started playing as a team."

Stark said that the team never would have come together without the help of assistant coach Sgt. William Pomares of 2SCR and pitching coach Pfc. Anthony Allen with 66th Military Intelligence.

The team also recognized who they voted as the most improved player of the season, sophomore Anthony Rael, citing his focus, attention to detail, and work ethic.

"He was always willing to do what it took to get better," Stark said.

"At the beginning of the season we didn't know how to use him. At the end, he was our starting second baseman," he said.

Stark hopes that approximately 70-80 percent of the team will be back for next season, depending on how the upcoming deployment will affect the families.

"If all the same people come back, we'll have a better chance of winning more games during the season and maybe even Europeans," Nolan said.

Stark also said he would try to spread the word about the team earlier to stir up more interest in playing baseball.



Courtesy photos
Nolan Stark bats against Rota on the Regensburg field during the tournament.



Stark



Pomares

Sports Briefs

Mountain biking club offered at ODR

Join and receive free rides on Mondays now through Sept.; free maintenance classes; and discounts on mountain bike trips. Call ODR Graf at DSN 475-7402 or Vilseck at DSN 476-2563.

June 23: Mountain bike championships. If you missed it at Graf, compete in Hohenfels. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Call DSN 466-2536.

B.O.S.S. sponsors cheaper bowling

Every Wednesday, both bowling centers offer \$1.00 bowling from 5 -10 p.m. You pay for your shoes plus \$1 per game.

B.O.S.S. meets every other Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Contact John Maki DSN 475-6116, or john.c.maki@eur.army.mil.

Sign up for men's, women's softball

Community level softball league, going on now through Aug. in Grafenwoehr.

For more information, contact Mike Bradfish in Graf at DSN 475-9024/9007, Carl Boothe in Vilseck at DSN 476-2214/2998, or Tony Lee in Graf at DSN 475-7576.

Power lifters compete Saturday

Saturday: For more information; contact Carl Boothe at the Rose Barracks Fitness Center, DSN 476-2214.

SCUBA open water diver course set

June 22: Register now. Class includes theory, pool instruction, four open-water dives, equipment and more. Courses last about two weeks. Call ODR at DSN 475-7402 for more information and prices.

Find golf courses through ODR

Outdoor Rec. knows the great places to golf this summer. Call them to find out what course offer military discounts. There are courses for everyone—beginners to experts. Call ODR at DSN 475-7402.

New scam targets military spouses

American Forces Press Service

The American Red Cross is warning military spouses about a new identity-theft scam that targets family members of deployed troops.

The Red Cross was alerted of the scam earlier this month, said Deborah Goldburg of the Red Cross.

The scam involves a person with an American accent calling a military spouse, identifying herself as a representative of the Red Cross, and

telling the spouse that her husband was hurt in Iraq and was medically evacuated to Germany. The caller then says that doctors can't start treatment until paperwork is completed, and that to start the paperwork they need the spouse to verify her husband's social security number and date of birth.

It is hard to determine how many spouses have been targeted by this scam, Goldburg said, as there are many ways for spouses to report problems like this. However, one confirmed

report was enough for the Red Cross to act, she said.

"We know that it happened to one person; it was probably going to happen to others, and we wanted to be prudent and alert people," she said.

American Red Cross representatives typically do not contact military members or dependents directly and almost always go through a commander or first sergeant, according to a Red Cross news release. Military family members

are urged not to give out any personal information over the phone if contacted by unknown individuals, including confirmation that their spouse is deployed.

In addition, Red Cross representatives contact military members or dependents directly only in response to an emergency message initiated by a family member, the news release said. The Red Cross does not report any type of casualty information to family members; the Defense

Department will contact families directly about family members' injuries.

It is a federal crime, punishable by up to five years in prison, for a person to fraudulently pretend to be a member of, or an agent for, the American Red Cross for the purpose of soliciting, collecting, or receiving money or material, according to the news release. Any military family member that receives such a call is urged to report it to their local family readiness group or military personnel flight.

Health study uses data from Global War on Terrorism

by GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

When a landmark Defense Department-sponsored health study was launched six years ago, one of its goals was to evaluate the impact of future deployments on long-term health. The investigators did not know how timely the project would be.

Today, the Millennium Cohort Study has enrolled tens of thousands of participants who have deployed in support of the global war on terrorism, said Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Margaret Ryan, the study's principal investigator and director of the Defense Department

Center for Deployment Health Research, part of the Naval Health Research Center, in San Diego.

The study was designed in the late 1990s "in the wake of the first Gulf War to answer some of the most difficult questions that couldn't really be answered retrospectively after that conflict," Ryan said.

The joint-service study was established to evaluate the health risks of military deployments, occupational exposures, and general military service, Ryan explained, noting that about 108,000 servicemembers have signed up to take part since program enrollment began in July 2001.

Participants' health is evaluated over a 21-year period, Ryan said, noting the size of the cohort — the group participating in the study - likely will total more than 147,000 people.

"About 40 percent of our cohort has deployed to one of the more recent operations, either in Iraq or Afghanistan or surrounding regions, in support of the global war on terrorism," Ryan said.

Involvement in the study is voluntary, and participants are selected randomly, Ryan said. All information is secure and safeguarded, she added.

Participants report their health

status every three years and can fill out either paper or online surveys, Ryan said.

"We do strongly encourage people to use the online option," Ryan said. "It's a very secure way to transmit information."

Dr. Tyler C. Smith will replace Ryan as the study's principal investigator later this year, as the Navy physician is slated to take a new duty assignment at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The study is providing valuable data that will help military epidemiologists understand possible cause-and-effect relationships between combat-zone deployments

and problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder, Smith said.

"We have the ability to look at a large group of individuals who were deployed and not deployed," Smith said. "And we can see what factors predict new-onset PTSD, and how PTSD evolves over time. That's what we've been focusing on."

Evaluating the incidence of PTSD among servicemembers wasn't possible until recently, "simply because we didn't have a cohort in place like this that's large and population-based," Smith explained.

"So we're learning things that we really haven't been able to investigate in the past," he said.

Wiggins: Fifth, final 'surge' brigade on ground in Iraq

by JOHN J. KRUZEL
American Forces Press Service

The fifth and final brigade of the troop surge has arrived in Baghdad and should be fully operational by mid-July, the deputy director for operations on the Joint Staff said in Washington D.C. May 30.

"We are starting to see a shift in momentum that comes with having additional forces on the ground," Army Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins told Pentagon reporters in a news conference.

Troops will clamp down on Baghdad's northern and southern belts — areas where insurgents "have had the opportunity to sit back and plan some of these attacks," Wiggins said.

"What we're trying to do through the 'clear, hold and retain' (strategy) is take those particular areas away from the insurgents and al Qaeda, make it more difficult for them to travel, at least freely," he said. "So some of those forces will stretch in Baghdad."

Wiggins noted that Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general of Multinational Force Iraq, is slated to update military and civilian leaders on the Baghdad security plan's progress in September.

In addition to deploying five U.S. brigades to Baghdad, the security plan that President Bush announced Feb. 13 has split the Iraqi capital into 10 districts where Iraqi army, police and coalition forces live together in joint security stations to be closer to the Iraqi people they are protecting.

U.S. ground forces' increased presence has "garnered greater support and situational awareness" throughout the country, Wiggins said, citing an increased number of tips that Iraqi citizens are providing to coalition forces.

"We're experiencing increased levels of support from local Iraqis throughout the other areas of Iraq," he said, citing the 41 kidnapping victims freed from an al Qaeda hideout by coalition forces May 27 near Baqubah.

"What's important about this is this rescue was made possible by the tip that was provided by an Iraqi citizen," he said. "And we're continuing to receive actionable tips from Iraqi citizens."

In Iraq's Anbar province, where violence levels "continue to drop significantly," an additional Marine unit has arrived and should be operational next month, Wiggins said.

"The 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit is arrived in theater; they are offloading personnel and equipment," he said. "We expect them to move north into the Anbar province and expect them to be operational on or about the middle of next month, as well."

Recruiting rates for Iraqi security forces in Anbar province are increasing. "The (number of) Iraqi army soldiers — as far as recruitment and volunteers — is increasing, and we expect to have 500 Iraqi army soldiers graduating from the basic training facility in Habbaniyah," he said.

The current graduating security force class will be assigned to the 7th Iraqi Army Division in Anbar province, Wiggins said, and the next graduating class will be expanded to 1,000 members. "That's based on the volunteer rates increasing in the Anbar province, which is positive news," he added.

Speaking about enemy tactics, Wiggins said al Qaeda operatives continue to use suicide vests and car

bombs as their weapons of choice in high-profile attacks.

"These particular indiscriminate killers, as well as mass casualties-producing weapons, are seen as success through the eyes of al Qaeda," he said. "We have found more and more that, although they're unable to reach their primary targets, they will pick secondary targets, such as funeral processions, markets and mosques, as their targets to create mass casualties."



Joint Staff Deputy Director for Regional Operations Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins conducts a press briefing to update reporters on recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan May 3.

Toy drums from Boyds Collection Ltd. pose lead poisoning hazard

Special to the Bavarian News

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: Eli's Small Drums and Liberty's Large Drums

Units: About 4,500

Importer: The Boyds Collection Ltd., of McSherrystown, Pa.

Hazard: The red paint on the drums contains high levels of lead. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: The recalled decorative toy drums are made of wood and come with two wooden drum sticks. The sides of the drums are painted blue with white stars and the tops and bottoms feature an antique U.S. flag decoration. The Eli's Small Drum measures 4 3/4 inches in diameter and 3 1/2 inches tall. The Liberty's Large Drum measures 6 3/4 inches in diameter and 4 inches tall. The Eli's Small Drum has item number 654933 printed on its hangtag and packaging. The Liberty's Large Drum has item number 654934 printed on its hangtag and packaging. The drums are



packaged and sold separately.

Sold at: Gift and collectible stores nationwide from June 2005 through April 2007 for about \$15.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately take the recalled decorative toy drums away from children and return them to the store where purchased for a full refund.

Consumer Contact: For information, contact The Boyds Collection Ltd. at (877) 772-3277 ext.2179 anytime, e-mail safety@boydsstuff.com, or visit www.boydsstuff.com.

To see this recall on CPSC's Web site, including a picture of the recalled products, please go to: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07196.html>.

Fisher-Price Rainforest infant swings pose entrapment hazard

Special to the Bavarian News

Fisher-Price Rainforest Infant Swings Recalled Due to Entrapment Hazard

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: Rainforest Open Top Take-Along Swings

Units: About 112,000 (an additional 15,000 were sold worldwide)

Importer: Fisher-Price, of East Aurora, NY

Hazard: Infants can shift to one side of the swing and become caught between the frame and seat, posing an entrapment hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: Fisher-Price has received 60 reports of the infants becoming entrapped, resulting in cuts, bumps, bruises and red marks.

Description: This recall involves Portable Rainforest Take Along Swings with a palm tree mobile and two hanging plush toys. The swings are approximately 23-inches-high and have two carry handles on the left and right sides. Model numbers K7203, K7192 and K7195 are included in the recall. Model numbers are located under the right handle on the swing. No other collection of Rainforest swings or products are included in this recall.

Sold at: Discount department stores and toy



stores nationwide from November 2006 to May 2007 for about \$65.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the swing and contact Fisher-Price for instructions on how to return it to receive a voucher for a replacement product.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, call Fisher-Price toll-free at (888) 303-5631 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at www.service.mattel.com

To see this recall on CPSC's web site, including a picture of the recalled product, please go to: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07197.html>